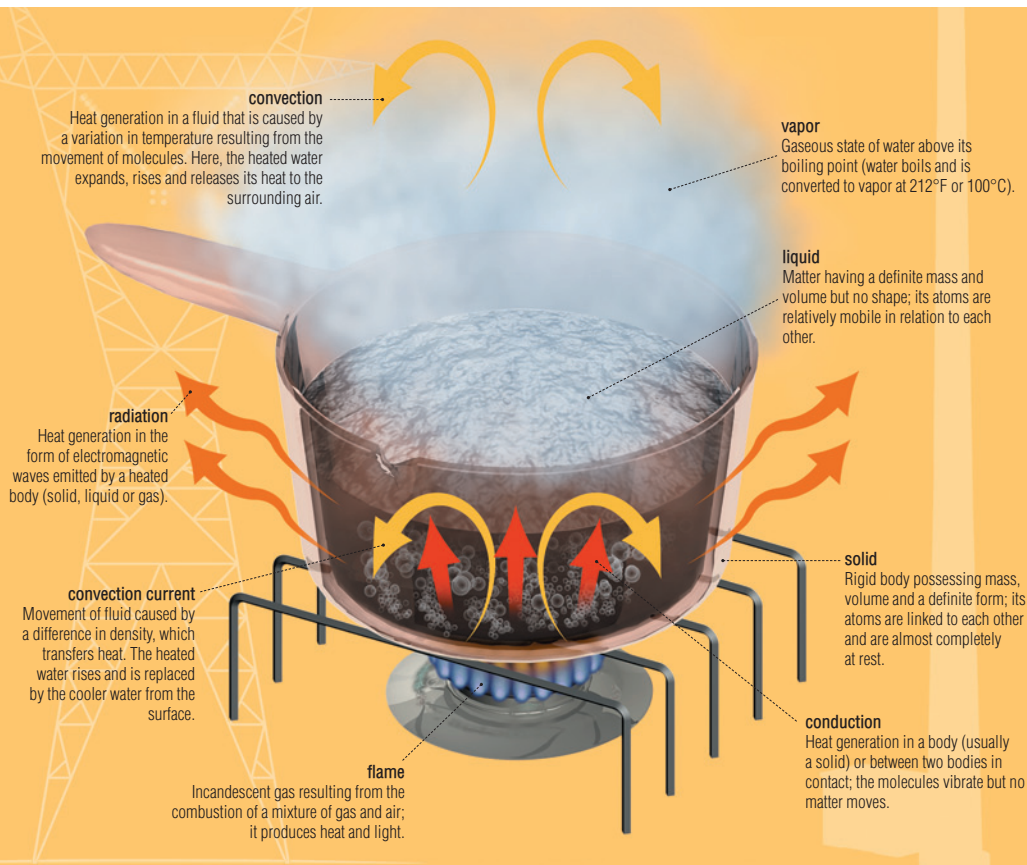


SCIENCE & ENERGY



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Jean-Claude **Corbeil**

Ariane **Archambault**

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329 De la Commune West, 3rd Floor
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T 514.499.3000 F 514.499.3010
www.qa-international.com

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Jacques Fortin
Authors: Jean-Claude Corbell and
Ariane Archambault
Editorial Director: François Fortin
Editor-in-Chief: Anne Rouleau
Graphic Designer: Anne Tremblay

PRODUCTION

Nathalie Fréchette
Josée Gagnon

TERMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Jean Beaumont
Catherine Briand
Nathalie Guillo

ENGLISH DEFINITIONS

Nancy Butchart
Rita Cloghesy
Tom Donovan
Diana Halfpenny
John Woolfrey
Kathe Roth

ILLUSTRATIONS

Artistic Direction: Jocelyn Gardner
Jean-Yves Ahern
Rielle Lévesque
Alain Lemire
Mélanie Boivin
Yan Bohler
Claude Thivierge
Pascal Bilodeau
Michel Rouleau
Anouk Noël
Carl Pelletier
Raymond Martin

CONTRIBUTIONS

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Jean-Louis Martin, Marc Lalumière, Jacques Perrault, Stéphane Roy, Alice Comtois, Michel Blais, Christiane Beauregard, Mamadou Togola, Annie Maurice, Charles Campeau, Mivil Deschênes, Jonathan Jacques, Martin Lortie, Frédéric Simard, Yan Tremblay, Mathieu Blouin, Sébastien Dallaire, Hoang Khanh Le, Martin Desrosiers, Nicolas Oroc, François Escalmel, Danièle Lemay, Pierre Savoie, Benoit Bourdeau, Marie-Andrée Lemieux, Caroline Soucy, Yves Chabot, Anne-Marie Ouellette, Anne-Marie Villeneuve, Anne-Marie Brault, Nancy Lepage, Daniel Provost, François Vézina, Guylaine Houle, Daniel Beaulieu, Sophie Pellerin, Tony O'Riley, Mac Thien Nguyen Hoang, Serge D'Amico.

LAYOUT

Pascal Goyette
Danielle Quinty
Émilie Corriveau
Preliminary layout: Émilie Bellemare
Sonia Charette

DOCUMENTATION

Gilles Vézina
Kathleen Wynd
Stéphane Batigne
Sylvain Robichaud
Jessie Daigle

DATA MANAGEMENT

Programmer: Éric Gagnon
Josée Gagnon

REVISION

Veronica Schami
Jo Howard
Marie-Nicole Cimon
Liliane Michaud

PREPRESS

Karine Lévesque
François Hénault
Julien Brisebois
Patrick Mercure

INTRODUCTION

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Visual Dictionary takes an inventory of the physical environment of a person who is part of today's technological age and who knows and uses a large number of specialized terms in a wide variety of fields.

Designed for the general public, it responds to the needs of anyone seeking the precise, correct terms for a wide range of personal or professional reasons: finding an unknown term, checking the meaning of a word, translation, advertising, teaching material, etc.

The target user has guided the choice of contents for *The Visual Dictionary*, which aims to bring together in 12 thematic books the technical terms required to express the contemporary world, in the specialized fields that shape our daily experience.

STRUCTURE

Each tome has three sections: the preliminary pages, including the table of contents; the body of the text (i.e. the detailed treatment of the theme); the index.

Information is presented moving from the most abstract to the most concrete: sub-theme, title, subtitle, illustration, terminology.

TERMINOLOGY

Each word in *The Visual Dictionary* has been carefully selected following examination of high-quality documentation, at the required level of specialization.

There may be cases where different terms are used to name the same item. In such instances, the word most frequently used by the most highly regarded authors has been chosen.

Words are usually referred to in the singular, even if the illustration shows a number of individual examples. The word designates the concept, not the actual illustration.

DEFINITIONS

Within the hierarchical format of *The Visual Dictionary*'s presentation, the definitions fit together like a Russian doll. For example, the information within the definition for the term *insect* at the top of the page does not have to be repeated for each of the insects illustrated. Instead, the text concentrates on defining the distinguishing characteristics of each insect (the *louse* is a parasite, the female *yellow jacket* stings, and so forth).

Since the definition leaves out what is obvious from the illustration, the illustrations and definitions complement one another.

The vast majority of the terms in the *Visual Dictionary* are defined. Terms are not defined when the illustration makes the meaning absolutely clear, or when the illustration suggests the usual meaning of the word (for example, the numerous *handles*).

METHODS OF CONSULTATION

Users may gain access to the contents of *The Visual Dictionary* in a variety of ways:

- From the TABLE OF CONTENTS at the end of the preliminary pages, the user can locate by title the section that is of interest.
- With the INDEX, the user can consult *The Visual Dictionary* from a word, so as to see what it corresponds to, or to verify accuracy by examining the illustration that depicts it.
- The most original aspect of *The Visual Dictionary* is the fact that the illustrations enable the user to find a word even if he or she only has a vague idea of what it is. The dictionary is unique in this feature, as consultation of any other dictionary requires the user first to know the word.

TITLE

Its definition is found below. If the title refers to information that continues over several pages, after the first page it is shown in a shaded tone with no definition.

DEFINITION

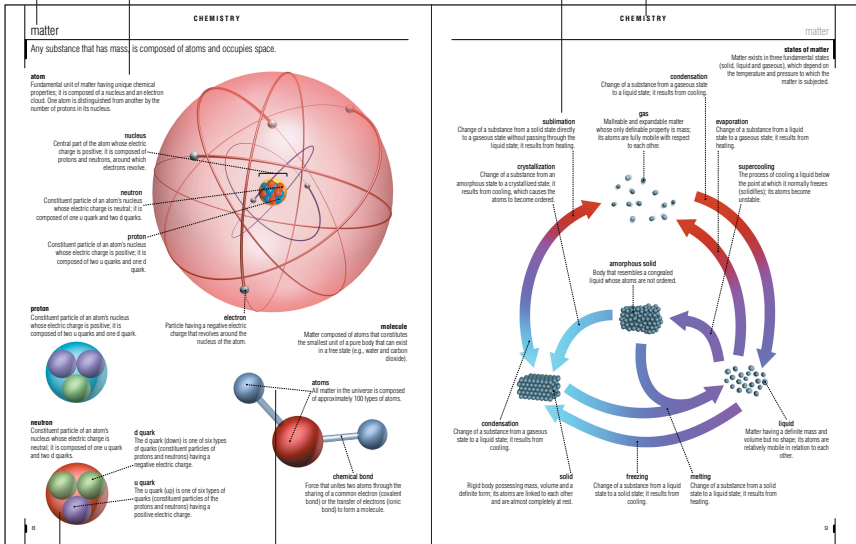
It explains the inherent qualities, function, or characteristics of the element depicted in the illustration.

TERM

Each term appears in the index with a reference to the pages on which it appears.

SUB-THEME

These are shown at the end of the preliminary pages along with their definitions. They are then repeated on each page of a section, but without the definition.



ILLUSTRATION

It is an integral part of the visual definition for each of the terms that refer to it.

NARROW LINES

These link the word to the item indicated. Where too many lines would make reading difficult, they have been replaced by color codes with captions or, in rare cases, by numbers.

CONTENTS

8 CHEMISTRY

- 8 Matter
- 12 Chemical elements
- 21 Laboratory equipment
- 24 Chemistry symbols

25 PHYSICS: MECHANICS

- 24 Lever
- 25 Gearing systems
- 26 Double pulley system

27 PHYSICS: ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM

- 27 Parallel electrical circuit
- 28 Generators
- 30 Dry cells
- 32 Electronics
- 34 Magnetism

35 PHYSICS: OPTICS

- 35 Wave
- 36 Electromagnetic spectrum
- 37 Color synthesis
- 38 Vision
- 40 Lenses
- 41 Pulsed ruby laser
- 42 Prism binoculars
- 43 Magnifying glass and microscopes
- 48 Telescopic sight
- 50 Reflecting telescope
- 51 Refracting telescope

52 MEASURING DEVICES

- 52 Measure of temperature
- 55 Measure of time
- 60 Measure of weight
- 65 Measure of length
- 65 Measure of distance
- 66 Measure of thickness
- 68 Measure of angles

70 SCIENTIFIC SYMBOLS

- 70 International system of units
- 72 Mathematics
- 74 Biology
- 75 Geometry
- 76 Geometrical shapes

82 GEOTHERMAL AND FOSSIL ENERGY

- 82 Production of electricity from geothermal energy
- 84 Thermal energy
- 86 Coal mine
- 96 Oil

112 HYDROELECTRICITY

- 112 Hydroelectric complex
- 116 Generator unit
- 119 Examples of dams
- 124 Steps in production of electricity
- 126 Electricity transmission
- 130 Tidal power plant

134 **NUCLEAR ENERGY**

- 134 Production of electricity from nuclear energy
- 138 Fuel handling sequence
- 140 Fuel bundle
- 141 Nuclear reactor
- 142 Nuclear generating station
- 144 Carbon dioxide reactor
- 146 Heavy-water reactor
- 148 Pressurized-water reactor
- 150 Boiling-water reactor

152 **SOLAR ENERGY**

- 152 Solar cell
- 153 Flat-plate solar collector
- 154 Solar-cell system
- 156 Solar furnace
- 158 Production of electricity from solar energy
- 160 Solar house

163 **WIND ENERGY**

- 163 Windmill
- 165 Wind turbines and electricity production

169 **INDEX**

matter

Any substance that has mass, is composed of atoms and occupies space.

atom

Fundamental unit of matter having unique chemical properties; it is composed of a nucleus and an electron cloud. One atom is distinguished from another by the number of protons in its nucleus.

nucleus

Central part of the atom whose electric charge is positive; it is composed of protons and neutrons, around which electrons revolve.

neutron

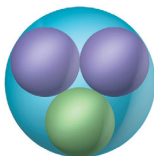
Constituent particle of an atom's nucleus whose electric charge is neutral; it is composed of one u quark and two d quarks.

proton

Constituent particle of an atom's nucleus whose electric charge is positive; it is composed of two u quarks and one d quark.

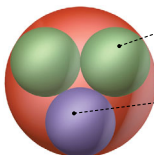
proton

Constituent particle of an atom's nucleus whose electric charge is positive; it is composed of two u quarks and one d quark.



neutron

Constituent particle of an atom's nucleus whose electric charge is neutral; it is composed of one u quark and two d quarks.

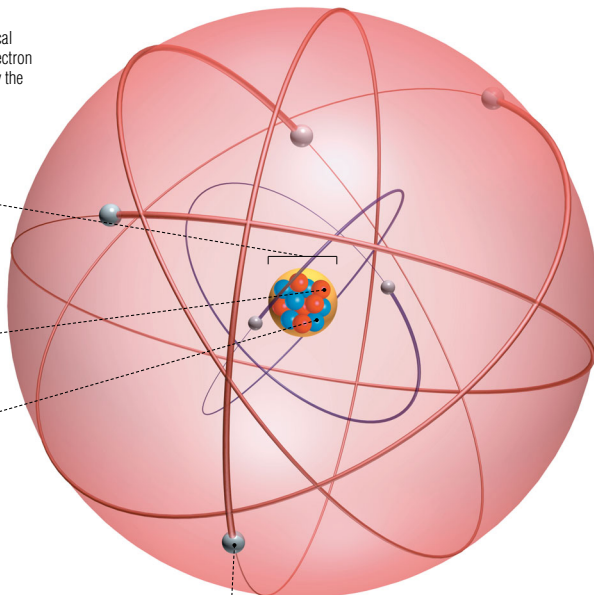


d quark

The d quark (down) is one of six types of quarks (constituent particles of protons and neutrons) having a negative electric charge.

u quark

The u quark (up) is one of six types of quarks (constituent particles of the protons and neutrons) having a positive electric charge.

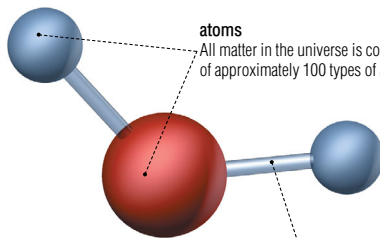


electron

Particle having a negative electric charge that revolves around the nucleus of the atom.

molecule

Matter composed of atoms that constitutes the smallest unit of a pure body that can exist in a free state (e.g., water and carbon dioxide).



atoms

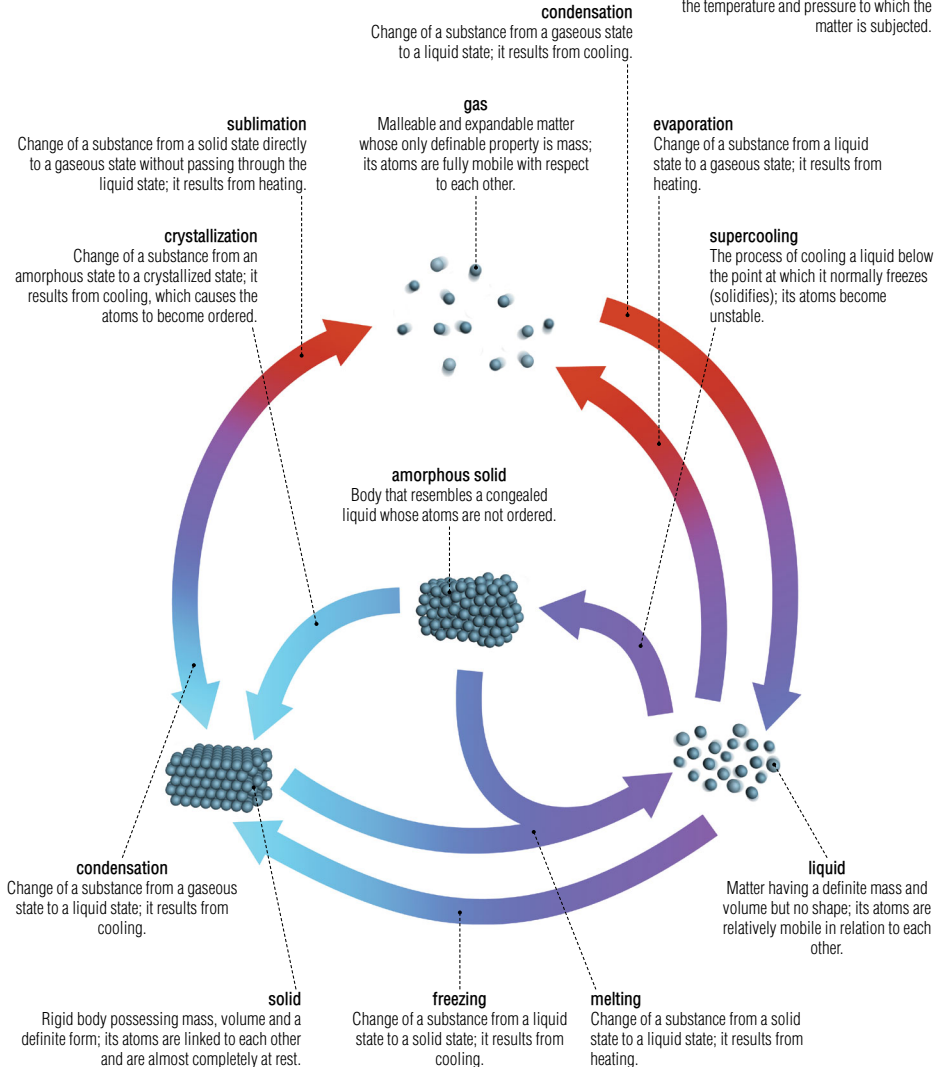
All matter in the universe is composed of approximately 100 types of atoms.

chemical bond

Force that unites two atoms through the sharing of a common electron (covalent bond) or the transfer of electrons (ionic bond) to form a molecule.

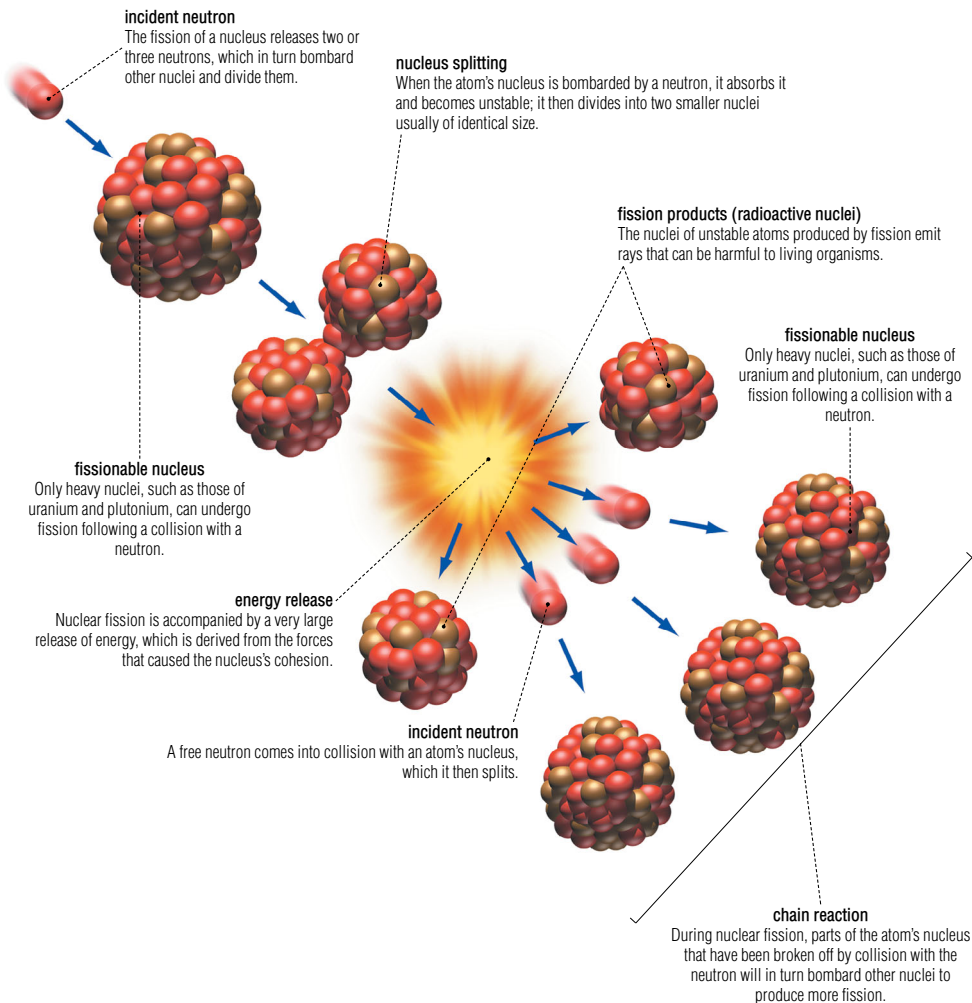
states of matter

Matter exists in three fundamental states (solid, liquid and gaseous), which depend on the temperature and pressure to which the matter is subjected.



nuclear fission

Process by which the atoms' nuclei become fragmented (e.g., in a nuclear reactor); neutrons are released and energy is produced in the form of heat.



heat transfer

Heat transfer occurs in three ways that are related to molecular movement: conduction, convection and radiation.

convection

Heat generation in a fluid that is caused by a variation in temperature resulting from the movement of molecules. Here, the heated water expands, rises and releases its heat to the surrounding air.

vapor

Gaseous state of water above its boiling point (water boils and is converted to vapor at 212°F or 100°C).

liquid

Matter having a definite mass and volume but no shape; its atoms are relatively mobile in relation to each other.

radiation

Heat generation in the form of electromagnetic waves emitted by a heated body (solid, liquid or gas).

convection current

Movement of fluid caused by a difference in density, which transfers heat. The heated water rises and is replaced by the cooler water from the surface.

flame

Incandescent gas resulting from the combustion of a mixture of gas and air; it produces heat and light.

solid

Rigid body possessing mass, volume and a definite form; its atoms are linked to each other and are almost completely at rest.

conduction

Heat generation in a body (usually a solid) or between two bodies in contact; the molecules vibrate but no matter moves.

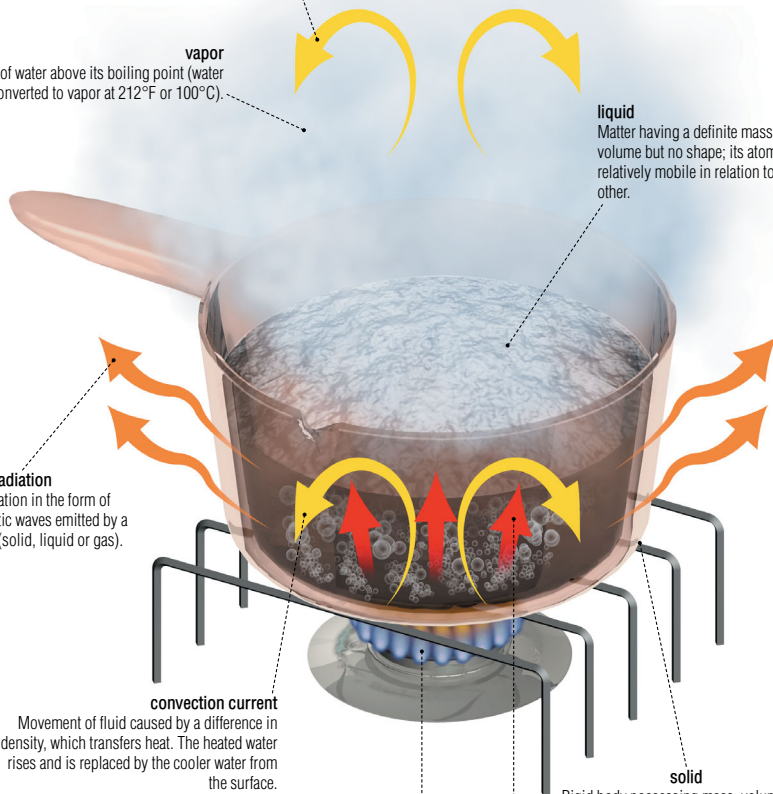


table of elements

Table created by Dmitry Mendeleev in 1869 that classifies the now approximately 110 known chemical elements such as oxygen, hydrogen, iron and lead. The elements are classified in order of their atomic weight and arranged into groups having similar properties.

12

hydrogen
 This gas is the most abundant element in the universe and makes up part of the composition of water. It is used especially in petrochemistry and rocket engines.

								2 He
			5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
			13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Uub						
63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu
95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr

alkali metals

Generally soft and silvery and very good conductors of heat and electricity; they are very reactant with nonmetals and break down in cold water.

lithium

3

Li

The lightest of all the metals is used especially in alloys for the aerospace industry, in household batteries and in medicine.

potassium

19

K

Very reactant light metal that is used especially in fertilizer and matches; its salts are used in medicine.

cesium

55

Cs

Rare metal that is used especially in photoelectric cells, atomic clocks, infrared lamps and treating certain cancers.

sodium

11

Na

Metal that is used especially in streetlights, kitchen salt (sodium chloride) and the manufacture of glass and cosmetic products.

rubidium

37

Rb

Metal similar to potassium but much rarer that is used in the manufacture of photoelectric cells and special kinds of glass and lasers.

francium

87

Fr

The heaviest of the alkali metals is very rare and radioactive and has a very short life span (about 22 minutes).

alkaline earth metals

Generally silvery and malleable and good conductors of heat and electricity; they react easily with nonmetals and water.

beryllium

4

Be

Uncommon metal that is used especially in alloys for the aerospace industry and as a moderator in nuclear reactors.

calcium

20

Ca

Metal that is one of the most essential elements in bones and teeth; it is also a component of cement, plaster and some alloys.

barium

56

Ba

Relatively abundant metal that is used especially in lubricants, pyrotechnics (fireworks), paint and radiology.

magnesium

12

Mg

Metal necessary for the growth and metabolism of most living organisms; it is also a component of aluminum alloys.

strontium

38

Sr

Relatively rare metal that is used especially in pyrotechnics (fireworks), the manufacture of magnets and medicine.

radium

88

Ra

Extremely radioactive metal present in very low quantities in uranium ore; it is used mainly in medicine as a cancer treatment.

boron

Semimetal that is used especially as a neutron absorber in nuclear reactors, as a rocket fuel and in detergents.

5
B**silicon**

Most common element on the planet after oxygen; it is used mostly in the manufacture of electronic devices because of its semiconductor properties.

14
Si**germanium**

Rare semimetal that is used especially in the manufacture of electronic devices and in optical equipment (camera and microscope lenses).

32
Ge**aluminum**

Light metal that is used especially in aeronautics, cars, buildings, electric cables, kitchen utensils and packaging.

13
Al**gallium**

Rare metal that is used especially in high-temperature thermometers, electroluminescent diodes and television screens (the color green).

31
Ga**indium**

Very rare metal that is used especially in race car engines and electronic devices, and as a coating for glass.

49
In

Nonmetallic elements that are lusterless and solid; they possess a certain amount of electric and thermal conductivity.

semi-metals (metalloids)**arsenic**

Toxic semimetal that is used especially in very low doses for therapeutic uses and in the manufacture of semiconductors.

33
As**selenium**

Semimetal that is usually used in photoelectric cells and semiconductors; it is an indispensable trace element for organisms.

24
Se**antimony**

Semimetal that is used in several alloys (mostly with lead) and especially in making metal for printing type and semiconductors.

51
Sb**tellurium**

Rare semimetal that is used especially in the manufacture of detonators, electric resistors, rubber, ceramics and glass.

52
Te**other metals**

These elements are not part of any other category of metal; they are sometimes called posttransition metals.

tin

Metal that is used especially as an anticorrosive for copper and steel and as a component in the preparation of bronze, welding and toothpaste.

50
Sn**bismuth**

Relatively rare metal that is used especially in alloys and cosmetics and in medicine (treatments for gastric ulcers and diarrhea).

83
Bi**thallium**

Metal that is used especially in infrared detectors and some kinds of glass.

81
Tl**polonium**

Very rare radioactive metal that is used as fuel in nuclear reactors; it emits radiation that is much more powerful than that of uranium.

84
Po**lead**

Heavy toxic metal that is used to prevent corrosion, as a protection against radiation and in accumulator batteries, paint and glass.

82
Pb

chemical elements

non-metals

Nonmetallic elements that are lusterless and nonmalleable; they are mostly gases and solids and are usually poor conductors of heat and electricity.

carbon

Element common in its pure state (diamond, graphite) or found in combination (air, coal, petroleum); it is present in animal and plant tissue.

6
C**fluorine**

Gas that is used especially for enriching uranium and manufacturing antistick coatings; it is present in bones and teeth.

9
F**chlorine**

Abundant toxic gas that is used to whiten fabric and paper, disinfect water and manufacture various other products (solvents).

17
Cl**bromine**

Very toxic liquid that is used mainly to manufacture teargas, dyes and disinfectants and in photography and medications.

35
Br**nitrogen**

Gas that constitutes about 78% of the Earth's atmosphere, present in all animal and vegetable tissue (proteins), and in fertilizer, ammonia and explosives.

7
N**phosphorus**

Solid used especially in fertilizer (phosphates), matches and pyrotechnics (fireworks); it is also necessary for human beings.

15
P**iodine**

Solid that is used especially in pharmaceuticals (revulsives, antiseptics), in photography and dyes; it is also essential for the human body.

53
I**oxygen**

Gas that is the most abundant element on Earth and that comprises about 20% of the atmospheric air; it is used to breathe and in the manufacture of steel.

8
O**sulfur**

Solid that is quite common in nature; it is used in car batteries, fertilizer, paint, explosives, pharmaceuticals and rubber.

16
S**astatine**

Radioactive element that is extremely rare in nature; it is used in medicine to study the thyroid gland and to detect cancerous tumors.

85
At**noble gases**

Family of chemical elements also called inert, as they are weakly reactant.

helium

The lightest of the noble gases is noncombustible and abundant in the stars; it is used especially in inflating aerostats (such as balloons and dirigibles).

2
He**argon**

Most abundant of the noble gases; it is used especially in incandescent lamps and in welding (protective gas).

18
Ar**xenon**

Rarest gas in the atmosphere; it is used mainly in discharge lamps, photoflash bulbs and lasers.

54
Xe**neon**

Noble gas that is used mainly in lighting (billboards, television tubes and fog lamps), but also as a liquid coolant.

10
Ne**krypton**

Noble gas that is used in some incandescent lamps and in photography.

36
Kr**radon**

Highly radioactive noble gas that is used mainly in medicine (destroying cancerous tumors) and in predicting earthquakes.

86
Rn

lanthanides (rare earth)

Very reactant elements found in the lanthanide series (monazite, xenotime); some are relatively abundant in the Earth's crust.

lanthanum

Metal that reacts with water to yield hydrogen; it is used especially in flint alloys and optical glass.

57
La**samarium**

Rare radioactive metal that is used especially in optical glass, lasers, nuclear reactors (absorbing neutrons) and permanent magnets.

62
Sm**holmium**

Very rare metal with limited applications; it is used in lasers and for coloring glass.

67
Ho**cerium**

The most common metal of the lanthanide group and the main constituent of flint alloys (misch metal).

58
Ce**europium**

The most reactant metal of the lanthanide group; it is used especially in television screens (the color orange) and nuclear reactors (absorbing neutrons).

63
Eu**erbium**

Metal that is used mainly in some alloys (especially with vanadium), lasers and infrared-absorbing glass, and as a colorant for glass and enamel.

68
Er**praseodymium**

Metal that is used especially in protective lenses, colorants for glass, flint alloys (misch metal) and permanent magnets.

59
Pr**gadolinium**

Metal that is often alloyed with chromed steel; it is used especially in the manufacture of permanent magnets, magnetic heads and electronic components.

64
Gd**thulium**

The rarest of the lanthanide group; it is used as a source of X-rays in portable radiology equipment and in the manufacture of ferrites (magnetic ceramics).

69
Tm**neodymium**

One of the most reactant of rare metals; it is used mainly to manufacture lasers, eyeglasses and permanent-magnet alloys.

60
Nd**terbium**

Rare metal that is used especially in lasers and semiconductors.

65
Tb**ytterbium**

Metal that is used in the manufacture of stainless steel, in lasers and as a source of X-rays in portable radiology equipment.

70
Yb**promethium**

Radioactive metal that is used mainly in specialized batteries and luminescent coatings for watches, and as a source of X-rays in medicine.

61
Pm**dysprosium**

Very rare metal that is used especially in permanent magnets, lasers and nuclear reactors (absorbing neutrons).

66
Dy**lutetium**

Very rare metal that is difficult to separate; it has no real industrial applications but can be used as a catalyst (cracking, hydrogenation).

71
Lu

transition metals

Usually less reactant than alkali metals and alkaline earth metals but very good electric and thermal conductors. Many of these metals form vital alloys.

scandium

21 Sc Rare and very light metal that is employed in aerospace construction because of its high fusion point (about 2,700°F or 1,500°C).

cobalt

27 Co Strong metal that is used in alloys (cutting tools, magnets) and in radiotherapy; it also yields a blue pigment.

niobium

41 Nb Rare metal that is used especially in alloys for jet aircraft, missiles, nuclear reactors, ointments and cutting tools.

titanium

22 Ti Metal that is used in several alloys employed in the manufacture of precision items and as a coating for light aerospace parts.

nickel

28 Ni Hard metal that resists corrosion; it is used in the manufacture of coins and cutlery, and as a protective coating for other metals (iron, copper).

molybdenum

42 Mo Hard metal that is used in alloys (aircraft, missiles, nuclear reactors), electric lights and electronic tubes.

vanadium

23 V Metal that is used mainly in alloys, to which it provides highly anticorrosive properties.

copper

29 Cu Reddish-brown metal that is a very good conductor of heat and electricity; it is used mainly in the manufacture of electric wire and alloys (brass, bronze).

technetium

43 Tc Radioactive metal (first element to have been produced artificially) that makes steel corrosion-free and is used in medical imaging.

chromium

24 Cr Bright metal that is used as an anticorrosive coating and in the manufacture of hard and resistant alloys; it gives emeralds and rubies their color.

zinc

30 Zn Relatively abundant metal that is resistant to corrosion; it is used especially in the manufacture of alloys, tires, paint, ointments and perfume.

ruthenium

44 Ru Rare metal that hardens platinum and palladium; it is used in the manufacture of electric contacts, spark plugs and jewelry.

manganese

25 Mn Hard metal that is used mainly in the manufacture of specialty steels and household batteries; it is also an indispensable trace element for humans.

yttrium

39 Y Rare metal used in the manufacture of alloys, electronic components, lasers, television screens and in nuclear reactors.

rhodium

45 Rh Rare metal that resists corrosion and hardens platinum and palladium; it is used especially in catalytic converters and jewelry.

iron

26 Fe The most used metal in the world due to its variety of alloys (steel, cast iron); it helps move oxygen through the body.

zirconium

40 Zr Metal that is used in alloys for the nuclear industry (protective sheathing, fuel rods) and in jewelry (imitation diamonds).

palladium

46 Pd Rare and precious metal that is used especially in dentistry (dental prostheses), jewelry (white gold) and in catalytic converters.

silver47
Ag

Precious metal that is the best conductor of heat and electricity; it is used especially in the manufacture of mirrors, jewelry and coins.

iridium77
Ir

Rare metal that is often alloyed with platinum; it is used especially in electric contacts and jewelry.

bohrium107
Bh

Artificial radioactive element that was first produced in laboratories in 1976; it is based on bismuth and chromium.

cadmium48
Cd

Metal that is used especially as a protective covering for steel, in rechargeable batteries and in nuclear reactors (control rods).

platinum78
Pt

Very rare metal used especially as a catalyst in chemistry (petrochemicals, vitamins), in jewelry and in precision equipment.

hassium108
Hs

Artificial radioactive element that was first produced in laboratories in 1984; it is based on lead and iron.

hafnium72
Hf

Rare metal that is used in the control rods of nuclear reactors, filaments for incandescent lamps and jet engines.

gold79
Au

Precious metal (nuggets, flakes) that is used as currency (ingots) and in jewelry, dentistry and electronics.

meitnerium109
Mt

Artificial radioactive element that was first produced in laboratories in 1982; it is based on bismuth and iron.

tantalum73
Ta

Somewhat rare metal that is highly resistant to heat; it is used especially in nuclear reactors, missiles and capacitors.

mercury80
Hg

Rare metal that is used in measuring instruments (thermometers, barometers) and in the electricity industry.

darmstadtium110
Ds

Artificial radioactive element that was first produced in laboratories in 1994; it is based on nickel and lead.

tungsten74
W

Metal that is resistant to very high heat; it is used in filaments for incandescent lamps and cutting tools.

rutherfordium104
Rf

Artificial radioactive element that was first produced in laboratories in the 1960s; it has applications only in scientific research.

roentgenium111
Rg

Artificial radioactive element that was first produced in laboratories in 1994; it is based on bismuth and nickel.

rhennium75
Re

Rare metal that is resistant to wear and corrosion; it is used especially in pen tips and incandescent filaments for ovens.

dubnium105
Db

Artificial radioactive element that was first produced in laboratories in the 1960s.

ununbium112
Uub

Artificial radioactive element that was first produced in laboratories in 1996; it is based on lead and zinc.

osmium76
Os

Rare metal often alloyed with iridium and platinum; it is used in pen tips, bearings, compass needles and jewelry.

seaborgium106
Sg

Artificial radioactive element that was first produced in laboratories in 1974; it is based on californium and oxygen.

actinides

Radioactive elements that are abundant in nature (elements 89 to 92) or made artificially (elements 93 to 103). Most of them have no industrial applications.

actinium

Metal that is present in small quantities in uranium ore; it is used mainly as a source of neutrons in nuclear reactors.

89
Ac**plutonium**

Metal that is produced from uranium; it is used especially as fuel in nuclear reactors as well as in nuclear weapons.

94
Pu**einsteinium**

Metal that was discovered in 1952 among the debris of the first thermonuclear explosion in the Pacific; it is used for scientific research only.

99
Es**thorium**

Natural metal that is used especially in alloys, photoelectric cells and uranium production.

90
Th**americium**

Metal that is produced from plutonium; it is used mainly in smoke detectors and in radiology.

95
Am**fermium**

Metal that was discovered at the same time as einsteinium; it is used for scientific research only.

100
Fm**protactinium**

Very rare metal that is present in uranium ore; it has few applications outside of scientific research.

91
Pa**curium**

Metal that is produced in small amounts from plutonium; it is used especially in thermoelectric generators for spacecraft propulsion.

96
Cm**mendelevium**

Metal that is produced from einsteinium; it is named in honor of the chemist Mendeleyev (who classified the elements).

101
Md**uranium**

Naturally abundant metal that is used mainly as fuel in nuclear reactors as well as in nuclear weapons.

92
U**berkelium**

Metal that is produced in small amounts from americium; it is used for scientific research only.

97
Bk**nobelium**

Metal that is produced from curium; it is named in honor of Alfred Nobel (inventor of dynamite and founder of the Nobel Prize).

102
No**neptunium**

Rare metal that is produced from uranium; it is used in neutron-detection instruments.

93
Np**californium**

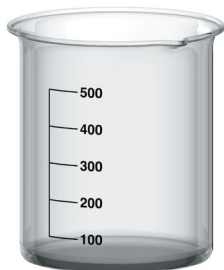
Metal produced from curium that is used especially in the treatment of cancer and in some measuring instruments such as humidistats.

98
Cf**lawrencium**

Metal that is produced from californium; it is used for scientific research only.

103
Lr

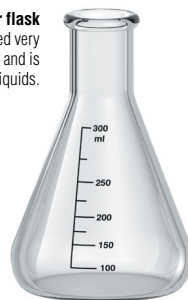
These materials are highly varied: measurement instruments, various containers, heat sources, experimentation materials and mounting hardware.

**beaker**

Graduated container with a spout; it is used to create reactions (precipitation, electrolysis) and to measure approximate amounts of liquid.

Erlenmeyer flask

Graduated cone-shaped container that is used very frequently in laboratories; it can have a stopper and is used especially for mixing and measuring liquids.

**bottle**

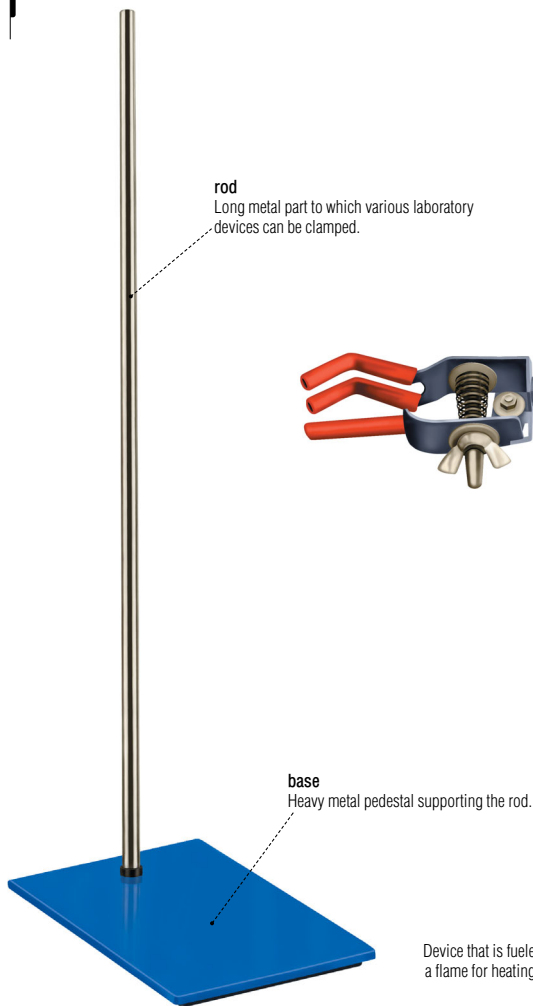
Container of various sizes and shapes and usually with a straight neck for holding liquids.

**wash bottle**

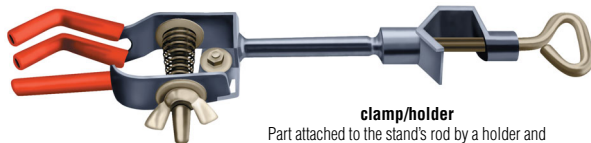
Flexible container that is squeezed lightly to squirt a liquid; it is used especially for cleaning equipment (test tubes, pipettes).

**round-bottom flask**

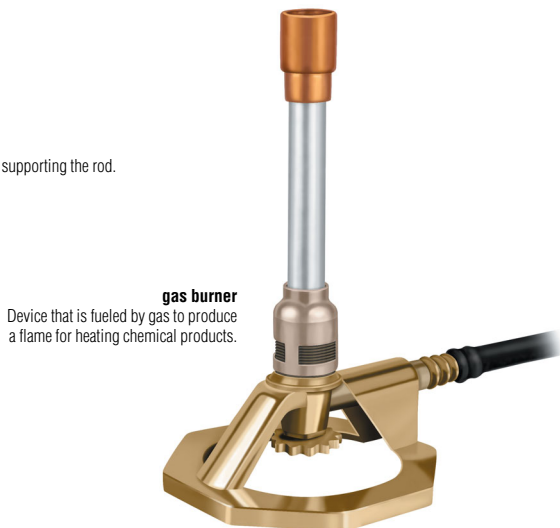
Spherical container used mainly for boiling liquids.

**holder**

Part with a screw for attaching a clamp onto the stand's rod.

**clamp/holder**

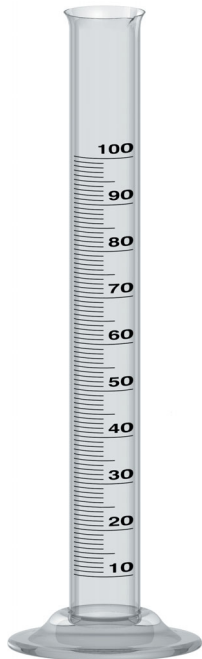
Part attached to the stand's rod by a holder and having tongs that clamp onto the laboratory equipment to hold it in place.

**gas burner**

Device that is fueled by gas to produce a flame for heating chemical products.

graduated cylinder

Graduated tube with a spout that is used especially for measuring small amounts of liquid with precision.

**straight stopcock burette**

Long graduated tube for measuring liquids with high precision; it is fitted with a valve for manually regulating the flow.

**serological pipette**

Fine tube that is open at both ends; it is used to transfer very precise quantities of liquids from one container to another.

**Petri dish**

Flat transparent box for culturing microorganisms; it has a cover to protect them from contamination.

**test tube**

Cylindrical tube used to conduct various chemical experiments on small quantities (normally, it is not filled above one-third).



chemistry symbols

Symbols that simplify the writing of the elements, formulas and chemical reactions.



negative charge

Symbol that indicates a surplus of electrons in an atom, which means the atom has a negative electric charge. The chlorine atom, for example, forms a negative ion that is denoted as Cl^- .



positive charge

Symbol that indicates a loss of electrons in an atom, which means the atom has a positive electric charge. The sodium atom, for example, forms a positive ion that is denoted as Na^+ .



reversible reaction

Chemical reaction that can occur in both directions; the products obtained (direct reaction) react between them to change back into the original reactants (inverse reaction).

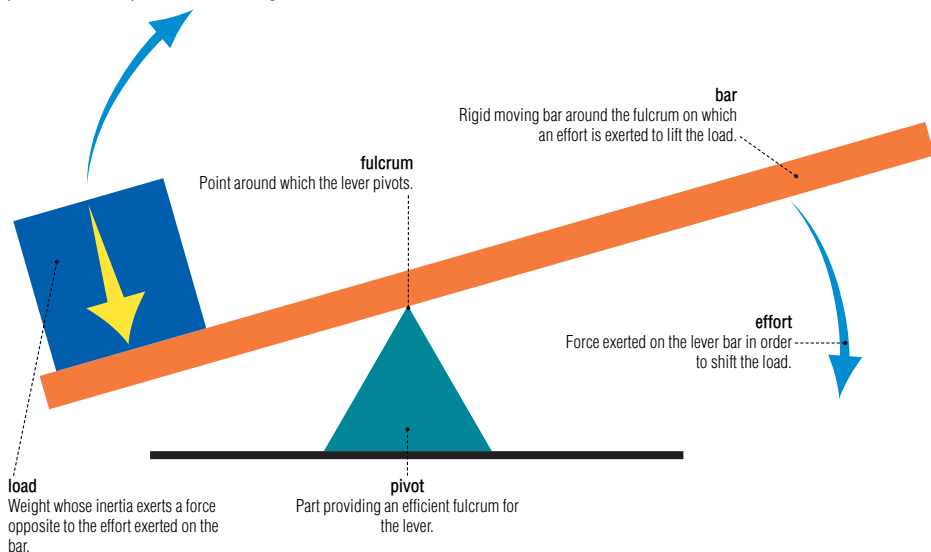


reaction direction

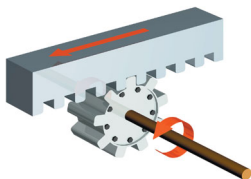
A chemical reaction corresponds to the conversion of reactants in products and is obtained by the loss of one of the reactants. The arrow indicates the direction in which this irreversible reaction occurs.

lever

System consisting of a bar pivoting on a fulcrum to lift a load. The amount of effort required is related to the position of the pivot and the length of the bar.

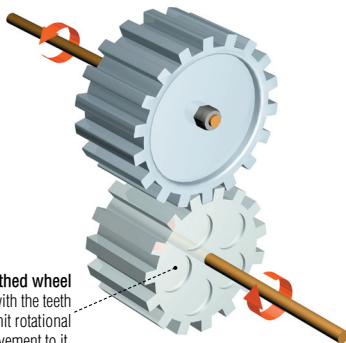


Mechanisms consisting of toothed parts that mesh to transmit the rotational motion of the shafts they are a part of.



rack and pinion gear

Gearing system converting a rotational movement into a horizontal movement (and vice versa); it is often used in the steering systems of automobiles.

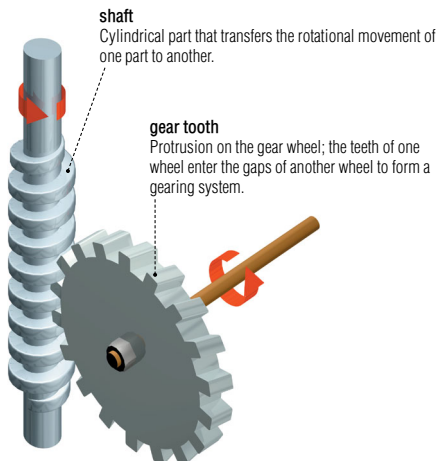


toothed wheel

Wheel with teeth that mesh with the teeth of another wheel to transmit rotational movement to it.

spur gear

Most common gearing system linking two parallel shafts that changes the speed and force of a rotation; it is used especially in automobile transmissions.



shaft

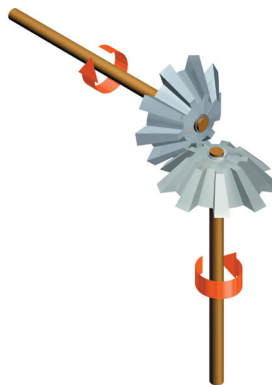
Cylindrical part that transfers the rotational movement of one part to another.

gear tooth

Protrusion on the gear wheel; the teeth of one wheel enter the gaps of another wheel to form a gearing system.

worm gear

One-way gearing system (only the screw can drive the wheel) for slowing down the speed of rotation between two perpendicular axes; it is used especially in the automobile industry (Torsen differential).

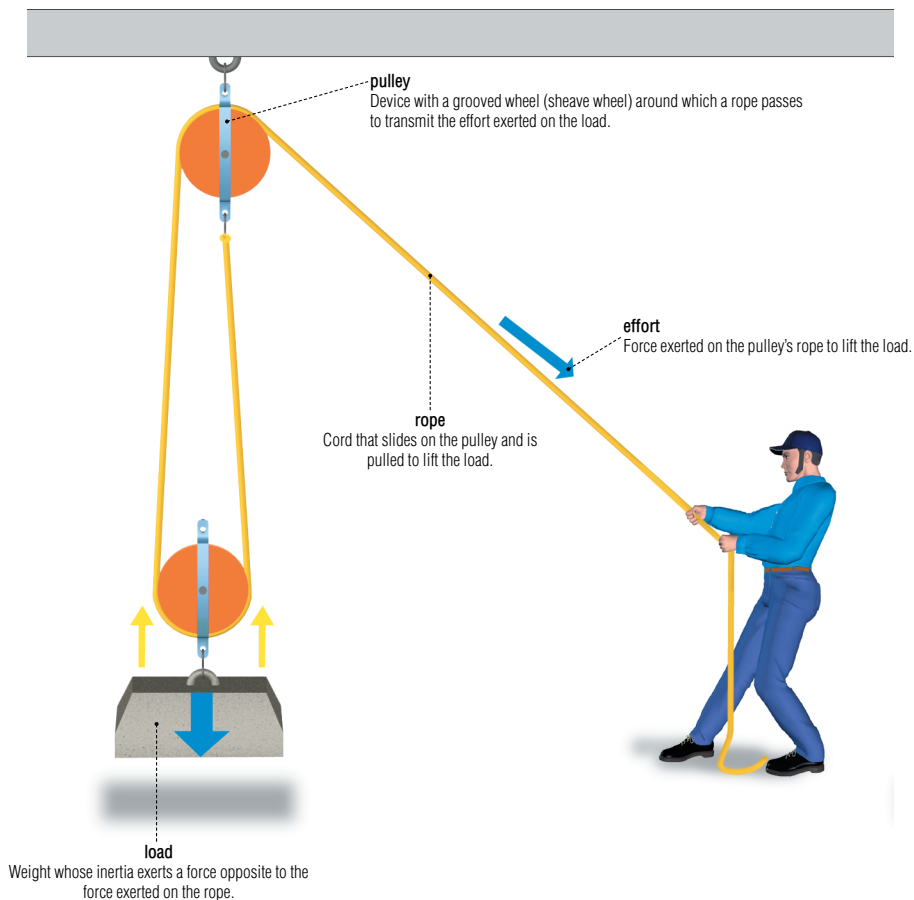


bevel gear

Gearing system linking two shafts at right angles that changes the direction of rotation; it is used especially in car jacks.

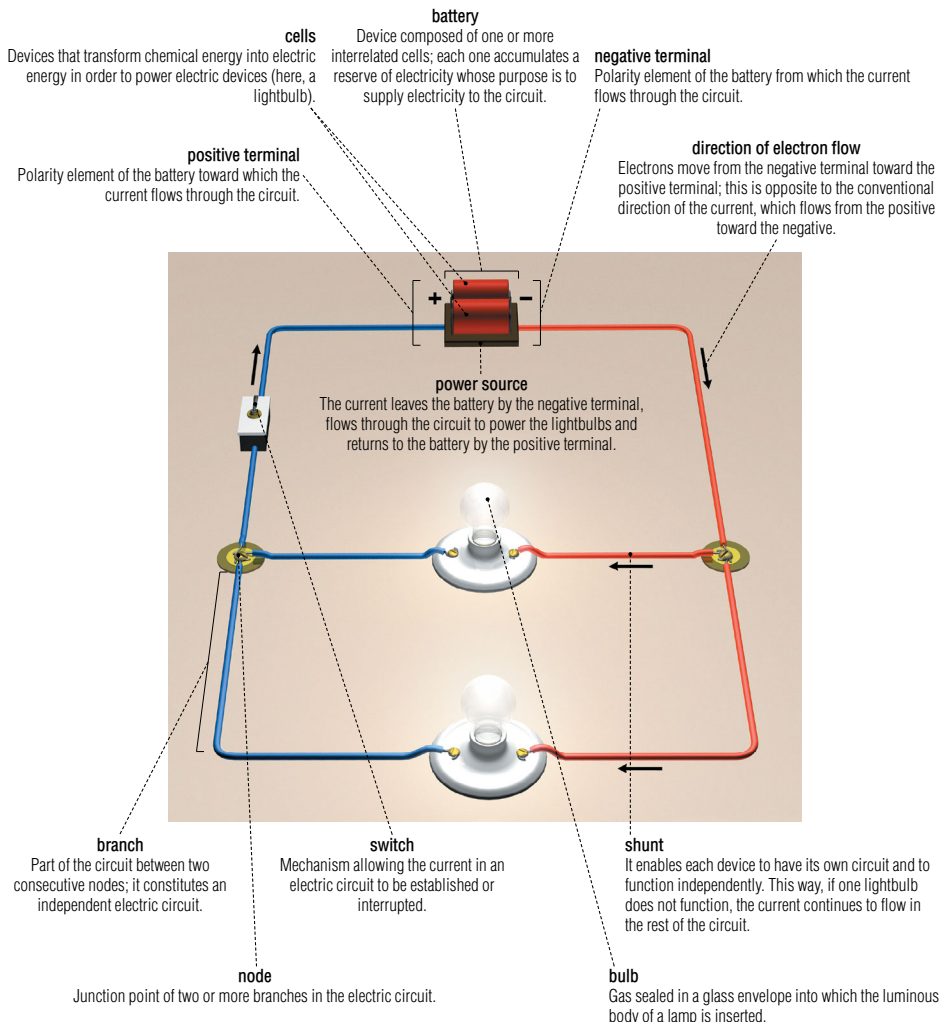
double pulley system

System consisting of two pulleys with a rope running around them to lift a load. Using two or more pulleys reduces the amount of effort needed.



parallel electrical circuit

It is divided into independent branches, through which the current flows with partial intensity (in a series circuit, all the elements receive the same intensity).

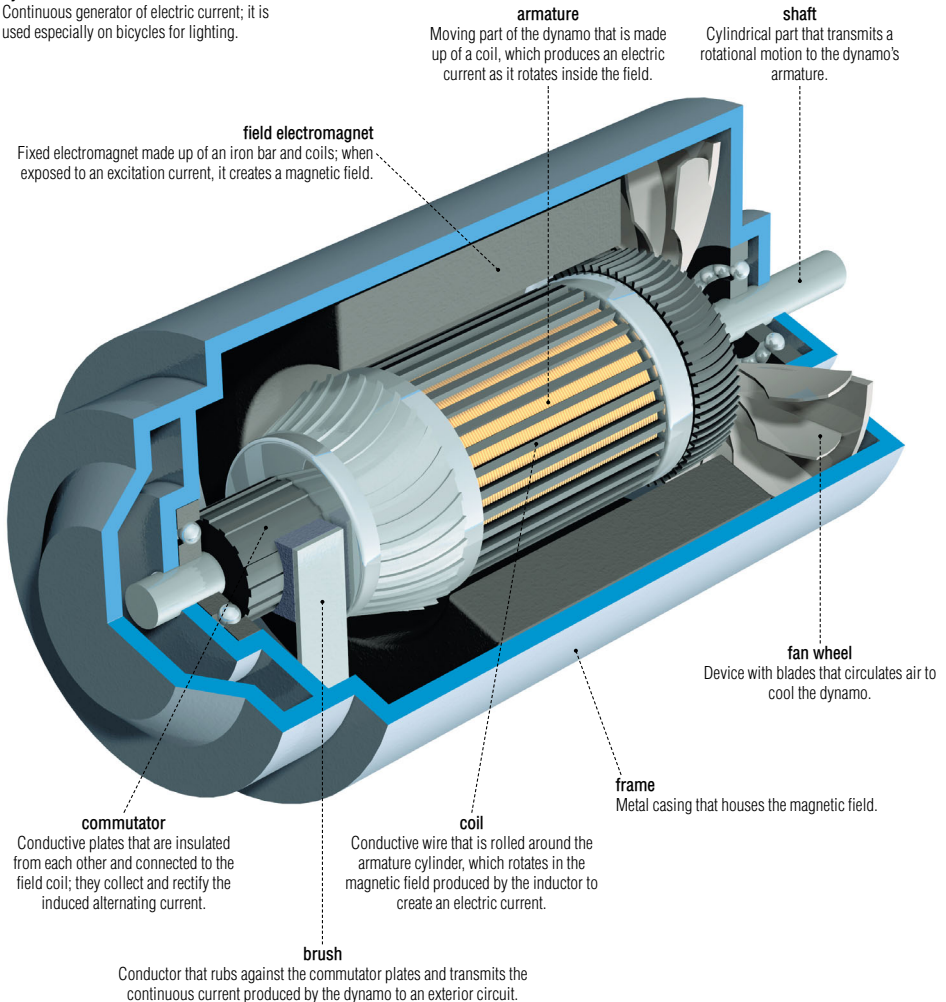


generators

Devices that convert mechanical energy (here, a shaft's rotational motion) into electric energy by moving a coil inside a magnet (electromagnetic induction).

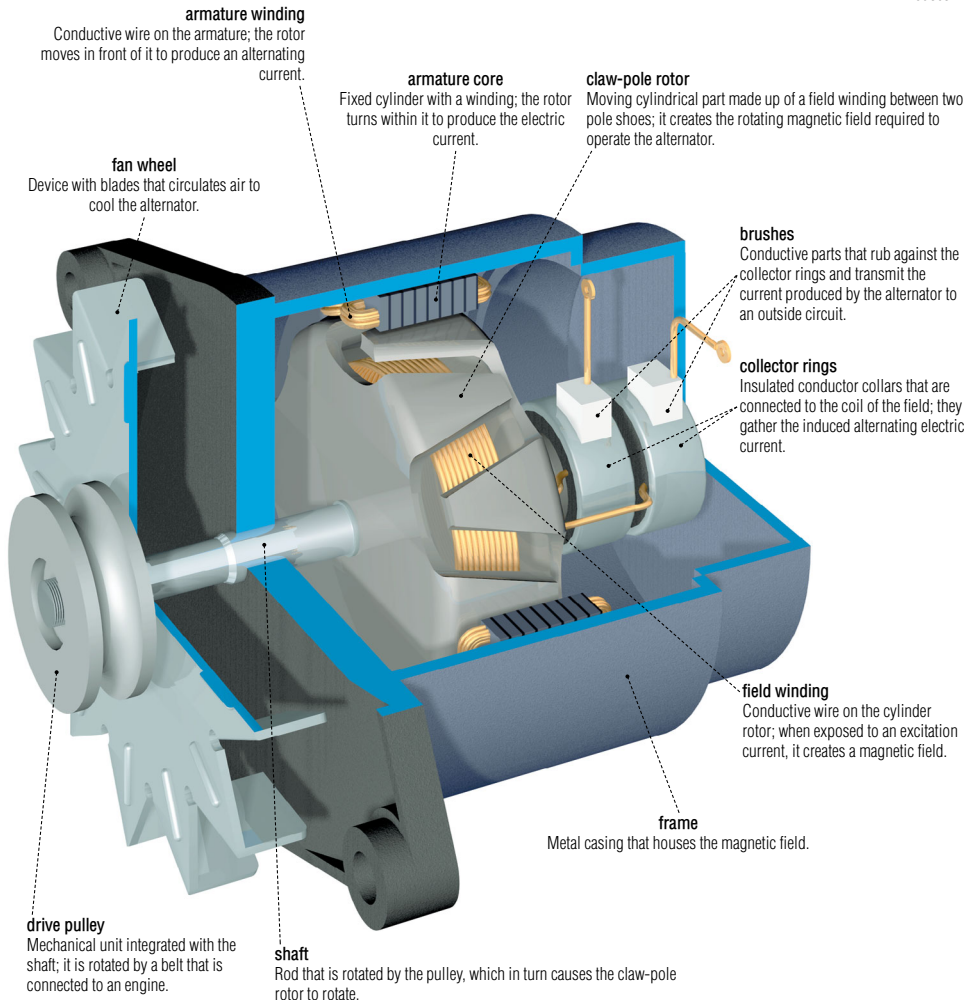
dynamo

Continuous generator of electric current; it is used especially on bicycles for lighting.



alternator

Generator of alternating current that is used especially in the automobile industry (powering electrical devices) and in power houses.

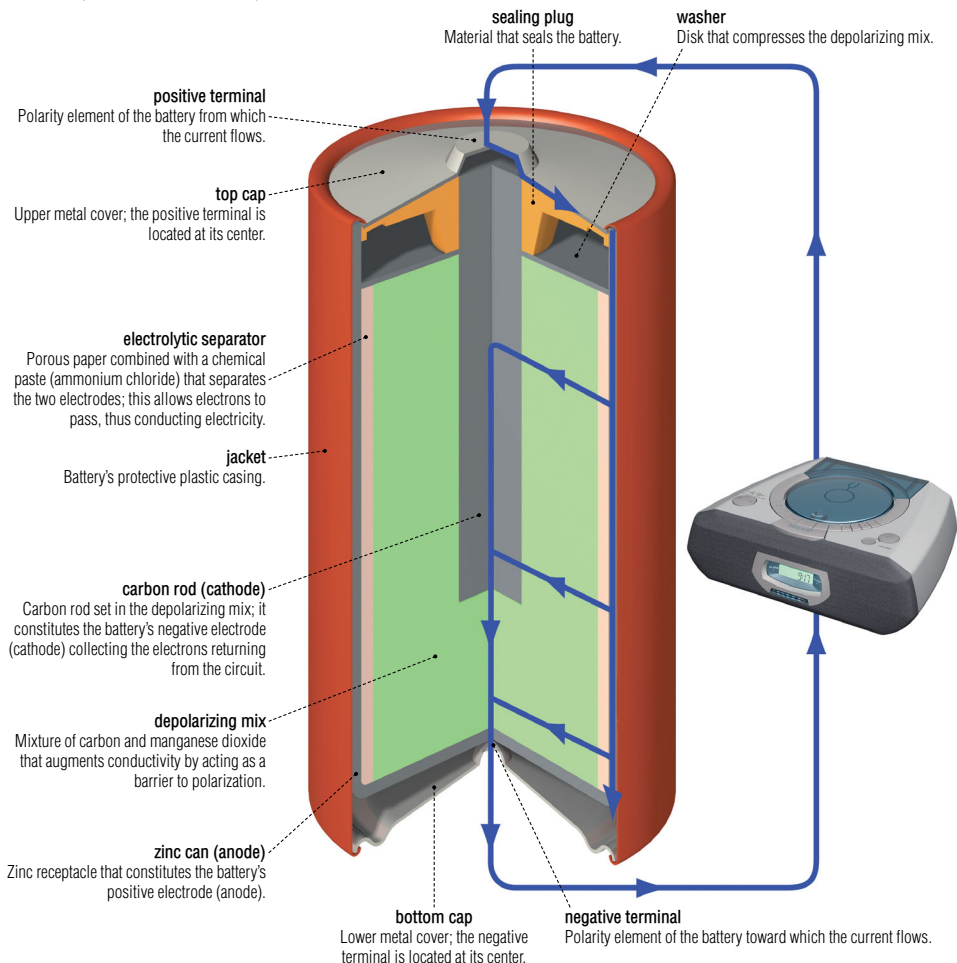


dry cells

Devices that transform chemical energy into electric energy (direct current); they usually cannot be recharged and the electrolyte is fixed in place.

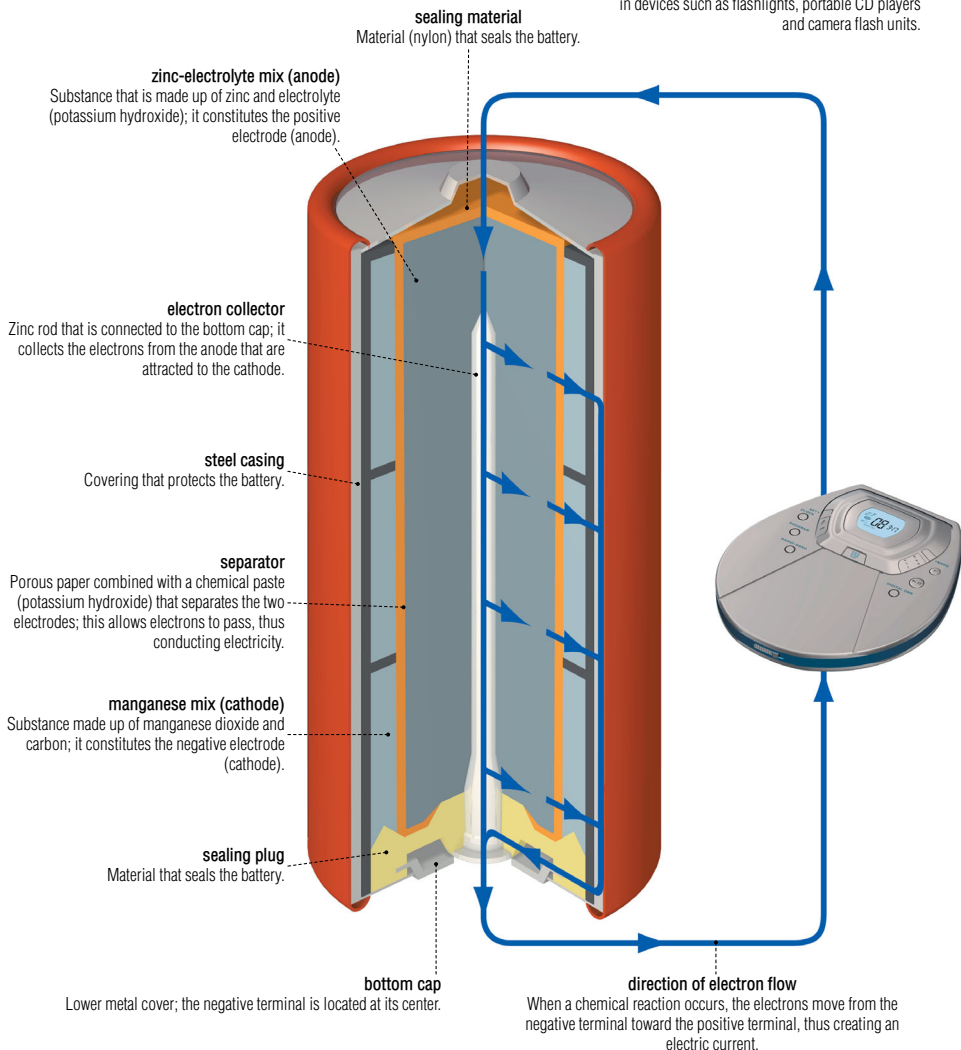
carbon-zinc cell

Battery that produces 1.5 V (also called Leclanché); its use is very widespread (pocket calculators, portable radios, alarm clocks).



alkaline manganese-zinc cell

High-performance battery that produces 1.5 V and has a longer life span than the carbon-zinc cell; it is used in devices such as flashlights, portable CD players and camera flash units.



electronics

The scientific study of the behavior of the electron and its applications, such as computers, medicine and automation.

printed circuit board

Usually plastic insulated card with holes containing electronic components; the circuit is printed on its surface.

plastic film capacitor

Commonly used component with two conductive plates (aluminum, tin) separated by an insulator (plastic); it stores electric charge.

ceramic capacitor

Component with two conductive plates (silver, copper) separated by an insulator (ceramic); it stores weak electric charge.

electrolytic capacitors

Polarized components with two conductive components (aluminum, tantalum) separated by an insulator (electrolyte); they store strong electric charge.

packaged integrated circuit

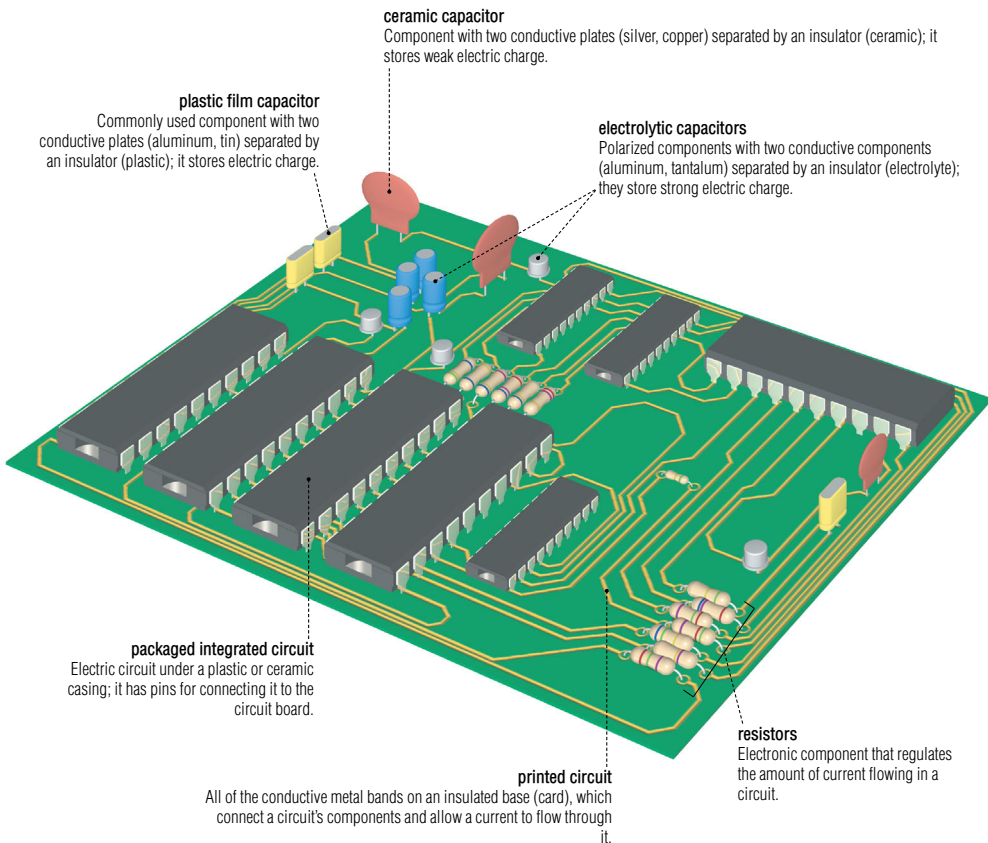
Electric circuit under a plastic or ceramic casing; it has pins for connecting it to the circuit board.

printed circuit

All of the conductive metal bands on an insulated base (card), which connect a circuit's components and allow a current to flow through it.

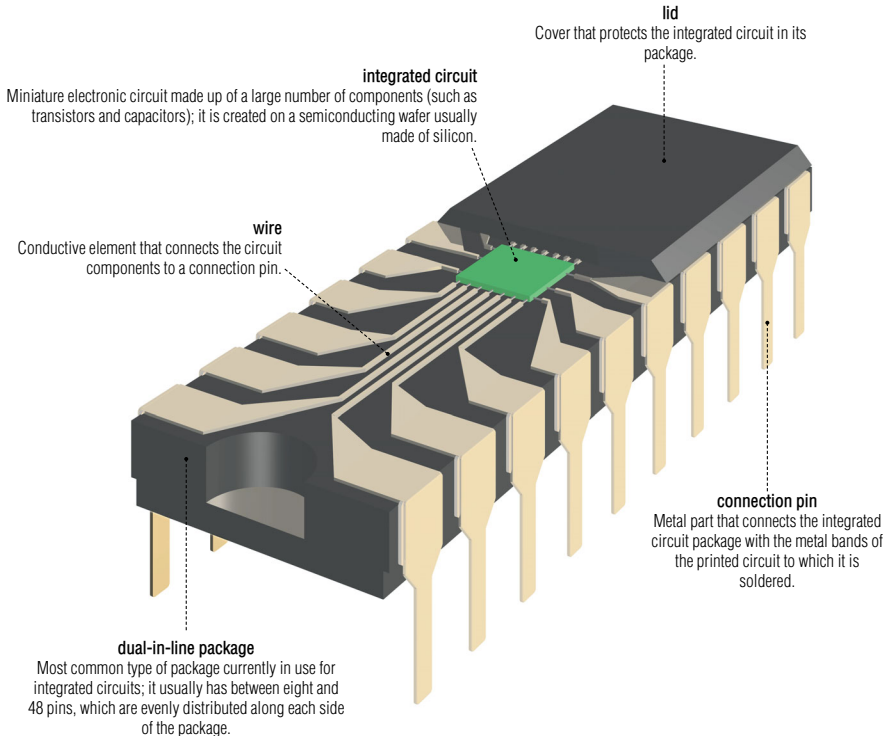
resistors

Electronic component that regulates the amount of current flowing in a circuit.



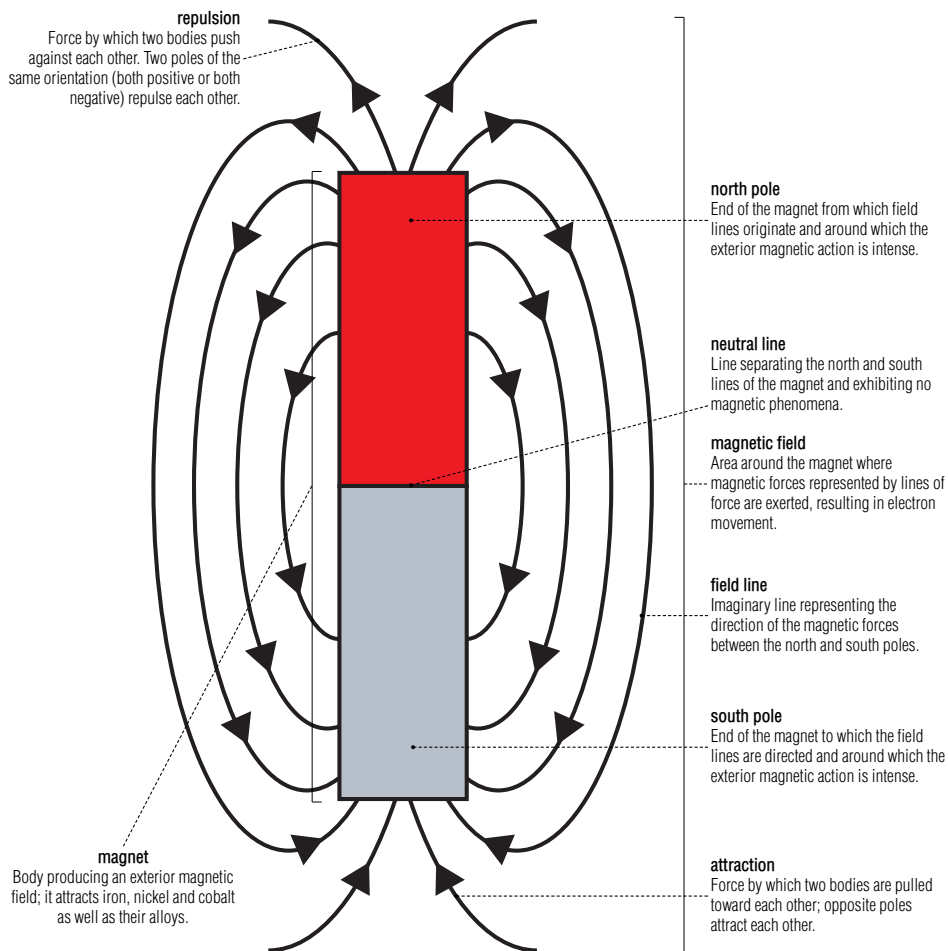
packaged integrated circuit

Integrated circuits are used especially in microprocessors, stereo equipment, calculators, watches and electronic games.

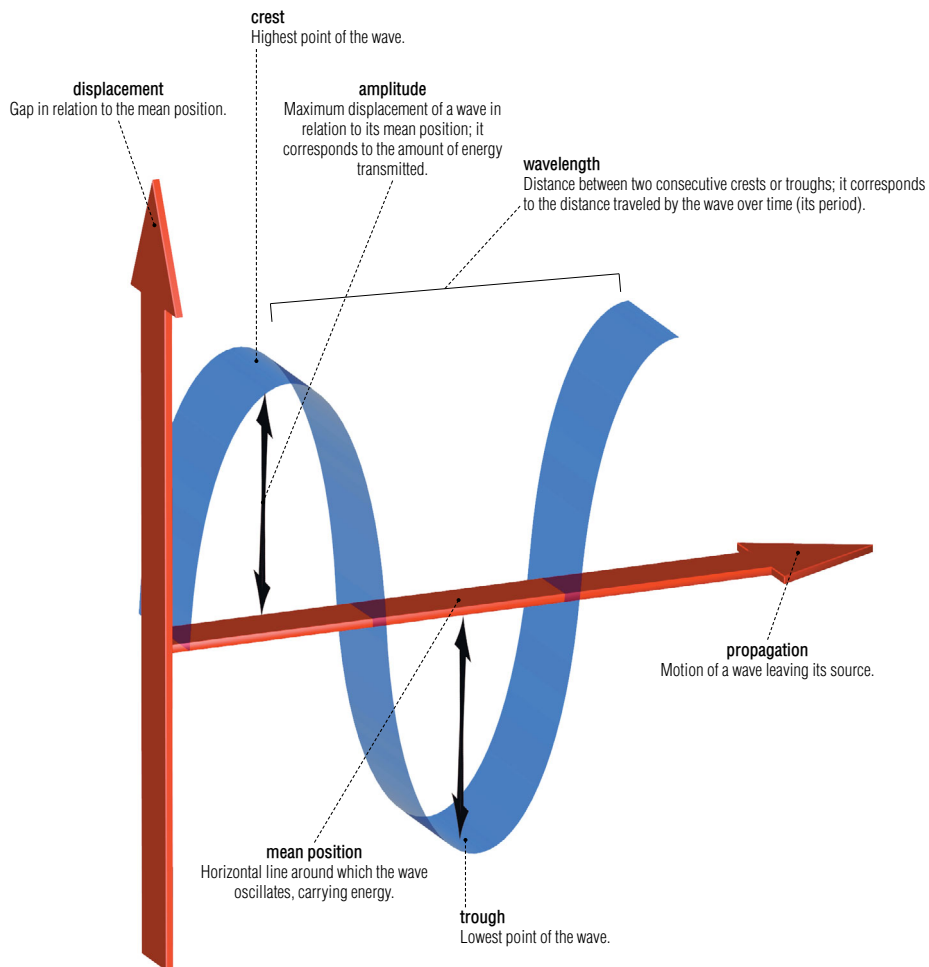


magnetism

Action exerted by magnets and magnetic fields and phenomena. Magnetism can be characterized by the forces of attraction and repulsion between two masses.



Oscillation caused by a disturbance; as it propagates through a medium (mechanical waves) or a vacuum (electromagnetic waves), it carries energy.



electromagnetic spectrum

Electromagnetic waves that are classified in ascending order of energy (frequency); they propagate at the speed of light (300,000 km/s).

radio waves

Very long electromagnetic waves (about 1 meter) having low frequency; they are used to transmit information (television, radio).

ultraviolet radiation

Electromagnetic waves used especially to tan skin and in microscopy, medicine and lighting (fluorescent tubes).

infrared radiation

Electromagnetic waves emitted by warm objects; their many uses include heating, medicine, aerial photography and weaponry.

gamma rays

Electromagnetic waves of very high frequency that are emitted by radioactive bodies; they are the most radiant and harmful rays and are used especially in treating cancer.

microwaves

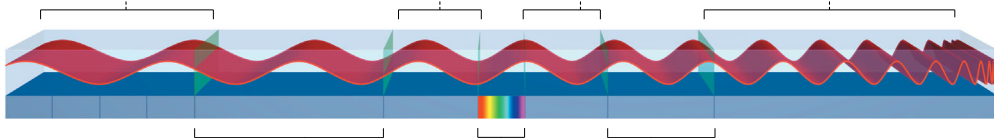
Very short electromagnetic waves; their many applications include radar detection and microwave ovens.

visible light

Electromagnetic radiation that is perceived by the human eye and ranges from red to violet.

X-rays

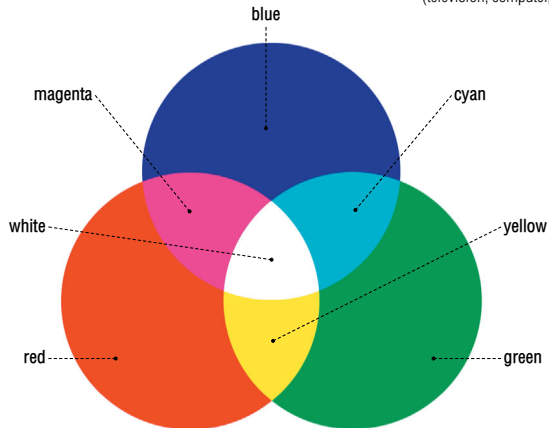
Electromagnetic waves used especially in radiology; frequent exposure can be harmful.



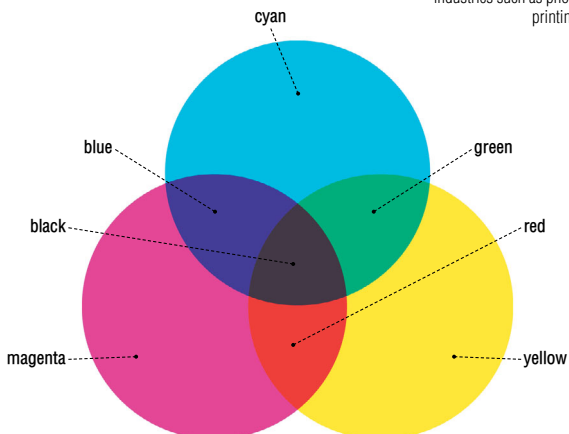
Technique of generating color by combining light rays or subtracting them to obtain a colored image.

additive color synthesis

The superimposition of primary colors (blue, green and red) is used especially in electronic screens (television, computer, video) to obtain intermediate tints.

**subtractive color synthesis**

The absorption of certain light rays (blue, green, red) by colored filters (yellow, magenta, cyan) is used in industries such as photography, film production and printing to obtain intermediate tints.

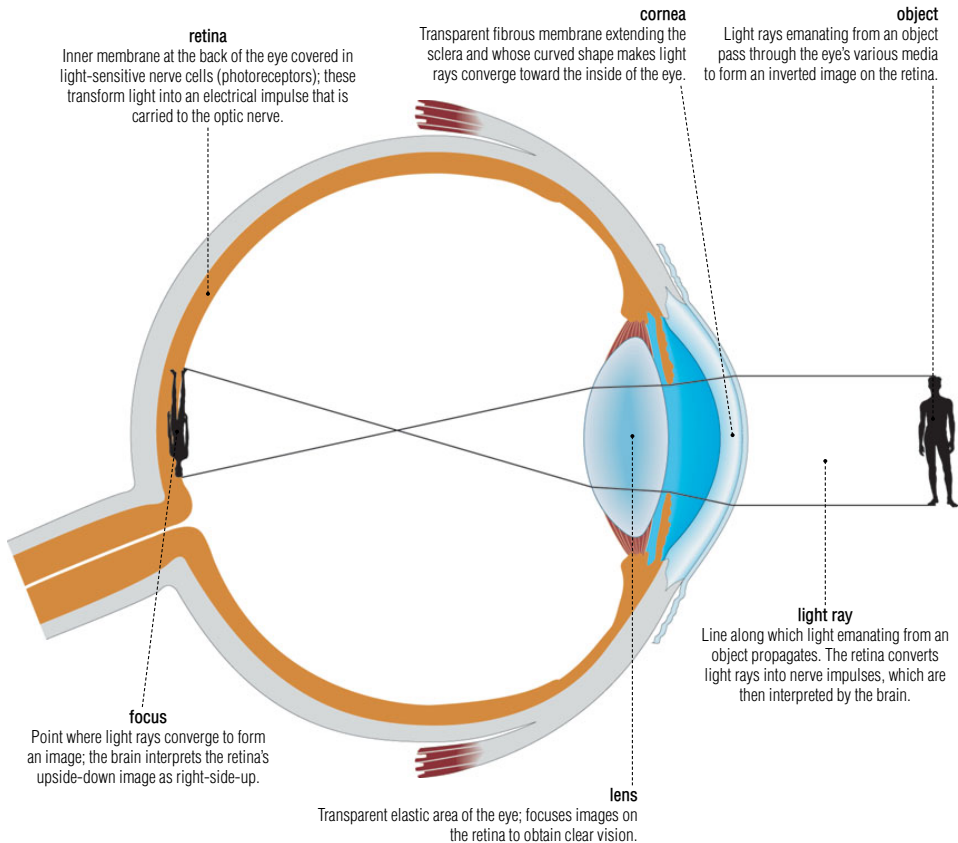


vision

Ability to perceive shapes, distances, motion and colors; it is related to light rays and varies depending on the degree of sensitivity of the eye.

normal vision

The image of an object is formed on the retina after passing through the lens, which, depending on the distance of the object, expands or contracts to give a sharp image.

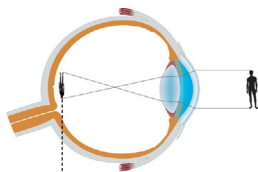


vision defects

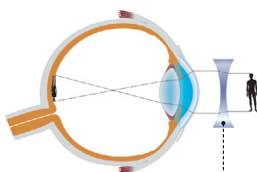
Images do not form on the retina, thus resulting in blurry vision; such defects are corrected by eyeglasses, contact lenses or even surgery.

myopia

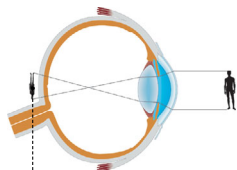
The image of a distant object is formed in front of the retina due to a defect in the light rays' convergence. This makes distant objects hard to see.

**focus**

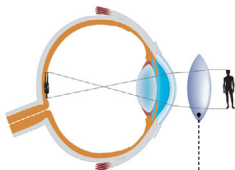
Point where light rays converge to form an image; the brain interprets the retina's upside-down image as right-side-up.

**concave lens**

Corrects myopia by causing light rays emanating from an object to diverge and project an image onto the focus of the retina.

**focus**

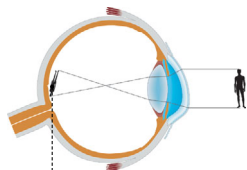
Point where light rays converge to form an image; the brain interprets the retina's upside-down image as right-side-up.

**convex lens**

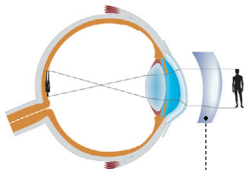
Corrects hyperopia by causing light rays emanating from an object to converge and project an image onto the focus of the retina.

hyperopia

The image of an object is formed behind the retina due to a defect in the light rays' convergence as they pass through the lens. This makes near objects hard to see.

**focus**

Point where light rays converge to form an image; the brain interprets the retina's upside-down image as right-side-up.

**toric lens**

Has various powers depending on the rays' axes of convergence; it is used to offset the visual distortion caused by the cornea.

astigmatism

Usually caused by a curvature of the cornea, it is manifested by blurred vision when viewing both near and far objects, depending on various axes.

lenses

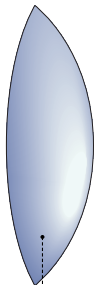
Transparent pieces of material (usually glass) that cause light rays to converge or diverge to form a sharp image (eyeglasses, microscopes, telescopes, cameras).

converging lenses

Thicker in the center than on the edges; they cause parallel light rays emanating from an object to converge onto the same point.

biconvex lens

Lens with both faces bulging outward.

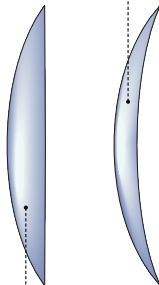


convex lens

Lens with one side bulging outward; the greater the bulge, the more the light rays converge.

positive meniscus

Lens where the concave side (curving inward) is less pronounced than the convex side (bulging outward).



plano-convex lens

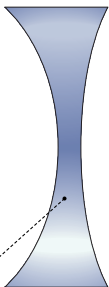
Lens with one flat side and one convex side (bulging outward).

diverging lenses

Thicker on the edges than in the center; they cause parallel light rays emanating from an object to diverge.

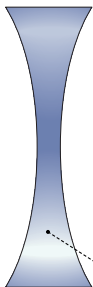
plano-concave lens

Lens with one flat side and one concave side (curving inward).



concave lens

Lens with one side curving inward; the greater the curvature, the more the light rays diverge.



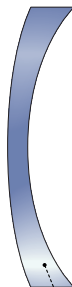
biconcave lens

Lens with both sides curving inward.

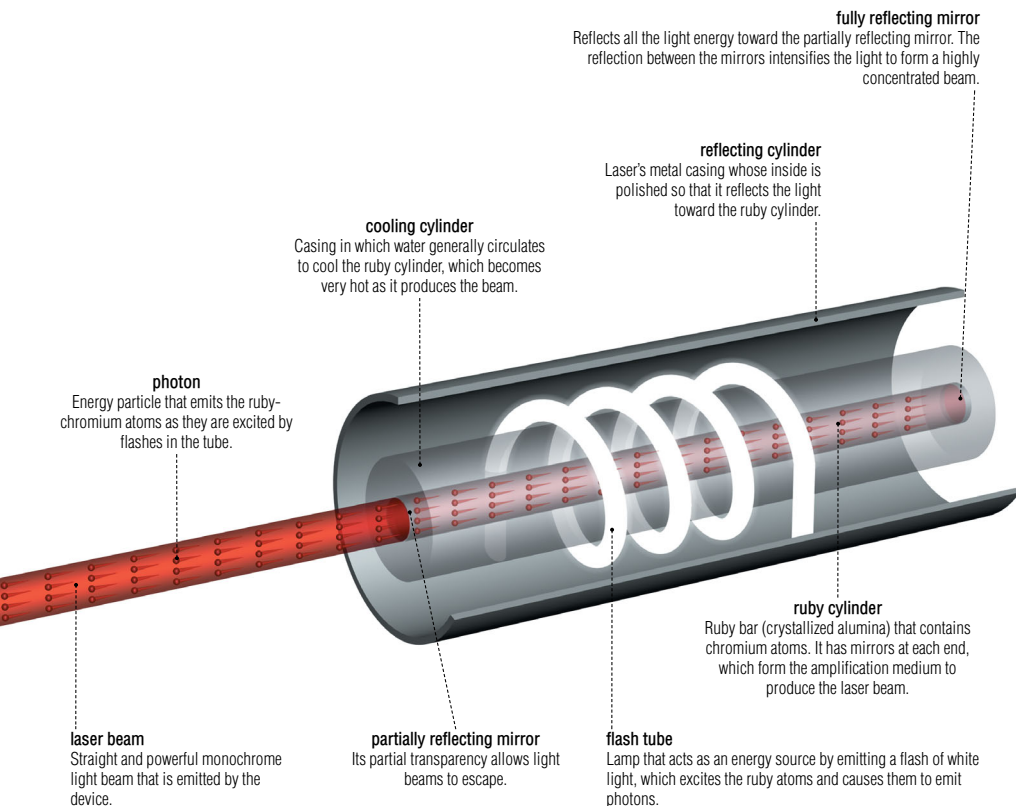


negative meniscus

Lens where the concave side (curving inward) is more pronounced than the convex side (bulging outward).

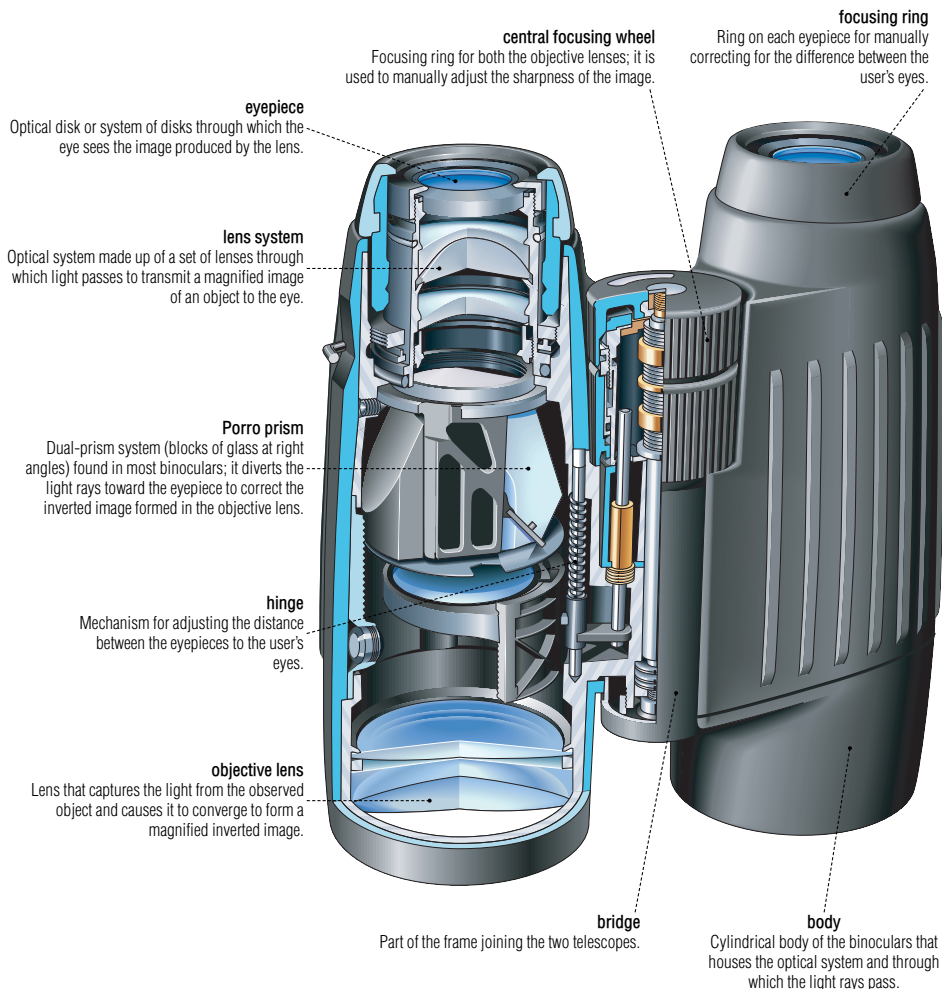


Device that produces a thin and very intense colored light beam; its various applications include fiber optics, manufacturing and surgery.



prism binoculars

Optical instrument made up of two identical telescopes, one for each eye; it magnifies both near and distant objects.



magnifying glass and microscopes

Optical instruments used to magnify the image of a near object; they range in strength from low (magnifying glass) to strong (microscope).

eyepiece

System of lenses that acts as a magnifier; the eye looks through it to see an enlarged image of the image produced by the objective.

microscope

Optical instrument that consists of a system of lenses designed for observing organisms that are very small or invisible to the naked eye by magnifying their images.

arm

Vertical part of the microscope that supports the components (draw tube, stage) and contains the focusing mechanisms.

revolving nosepiece

Rotating plate to which objectives of different powers are fixed to allow them to be used in succession during a study.

objective

Lens system that captures the light from an observed object and makes it converge to form an enlarged inverted image.

stage clip

Springlike metal blade that keeps the glass slide on the stage.

stage

Metal plate with an opening in the middle; the glass slide and the components keeping it in place are placed on it.

glass slide

Fine glass plate on which the object to be studied is placed.

condenser

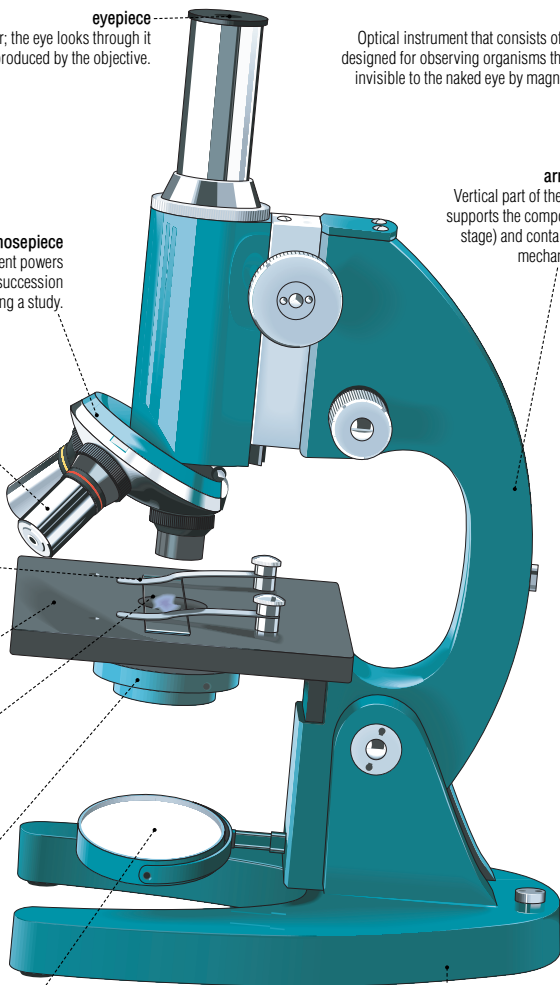
Optical system that is usually made up of two lenses, which concentrate the light reflected by the mirror onto the object under study.

mirror

Polished glass surface that reflects the surrounding light onto the object under study to illuminate it.

base

Support that stabilizes the microscope.



magnifying glass and microscopes

binocular microscope

Its two eyepieces allow both eyes to be fully applied; this provides a degree of depth to the image and prevents eyestrain.

eyepiece

System of lenses that acts as a magnifier; the eye looks through it to see an enlarged image of the image produced by the objective.

draw tube

One of two cylindrical tubes that house the eyepieces; it is often made up of two converging lenses.

limb top

Upper part of the arm that supports the revolving nosepiece.

revolving nosepiece

Rotating plate to which objectives of different powers are fixed to allow them to be used in succession during a study.

objective

Lens system that captures the light from the observed object and makes it converge to form an enlarged inverted image.

stage clip

Springlike metal blade that keeps the glass slide on the stage.

glass slide

Fine glass plate on which the object to be studied is placed.

field lens adjustment

Device with a variable-diameter opening that adjusts the amount of light illuminating the object.

condenser adjustment knob

Screw that centers the condenser's light beam in the field of vision by moving it along a horizontal plane.

condenser

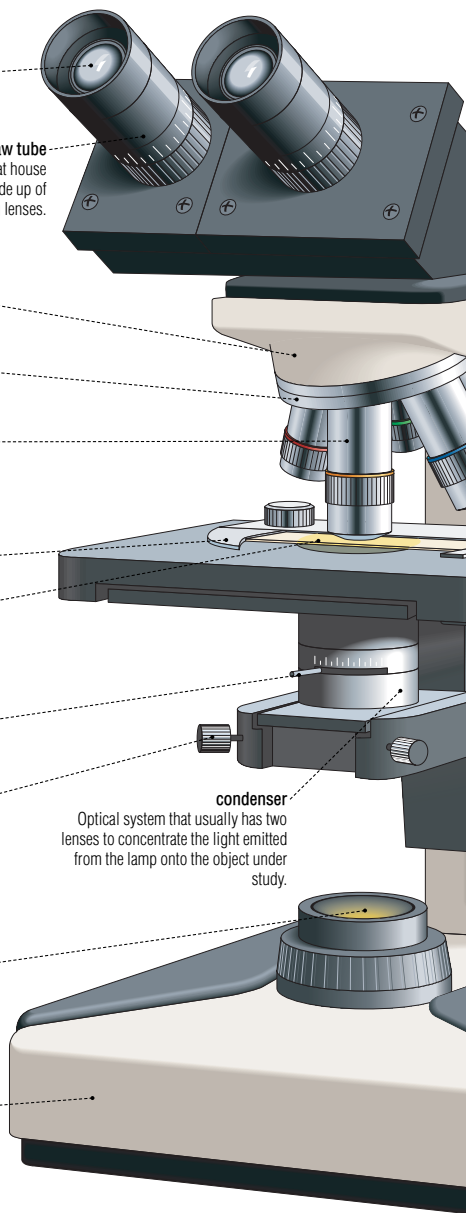
Optical system that usually has two lenses to concentrate the light emitted from the lamp onto the object under study.

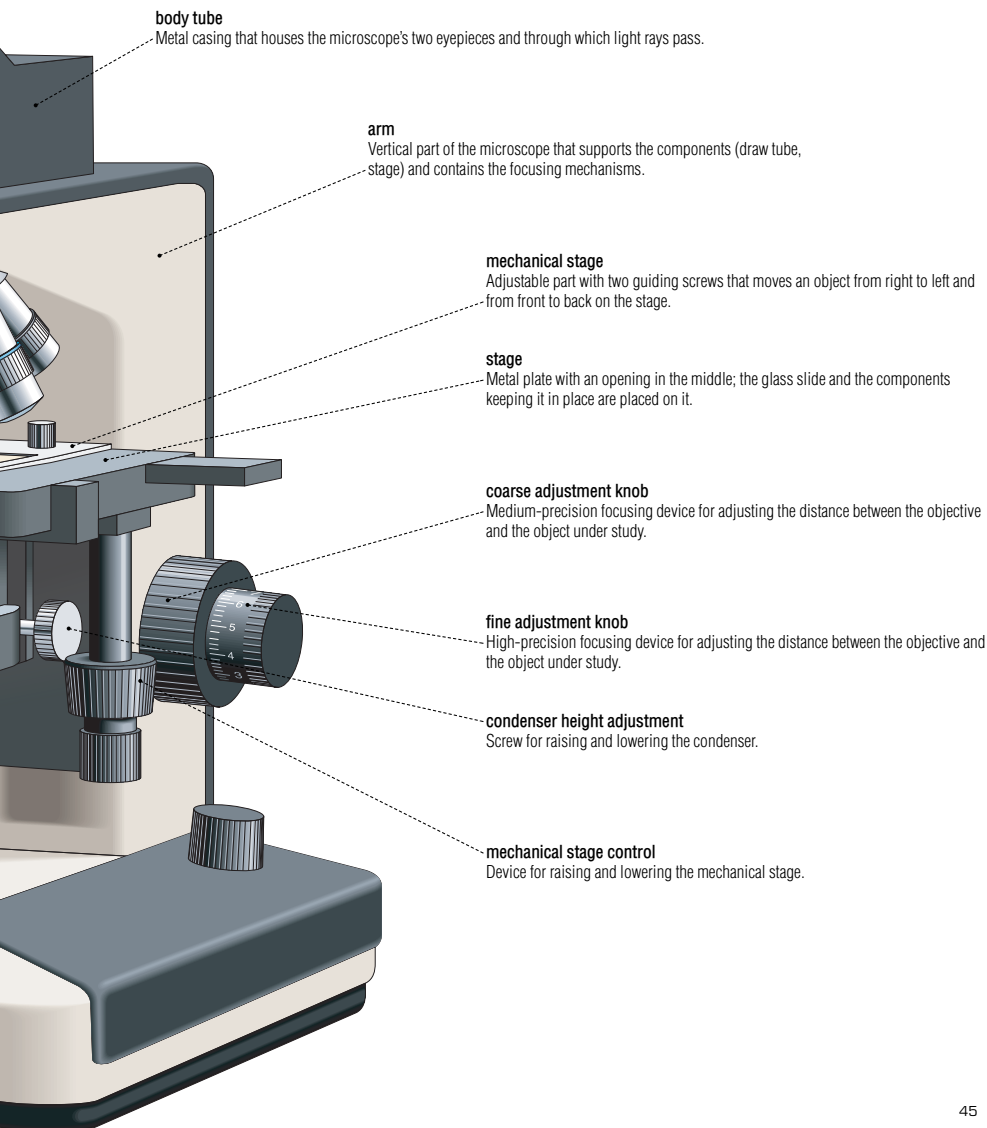
lamp

Electric device that produces a light beam to illuminate the object under study.

base

Support that stabilizes the microscope.

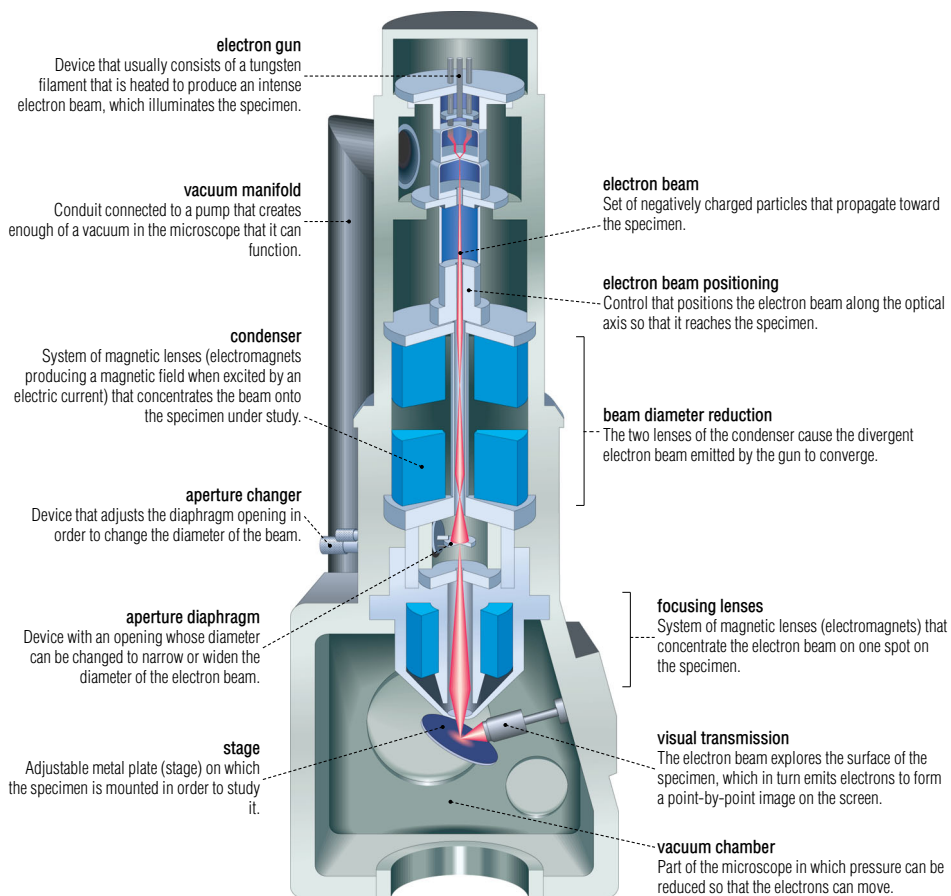




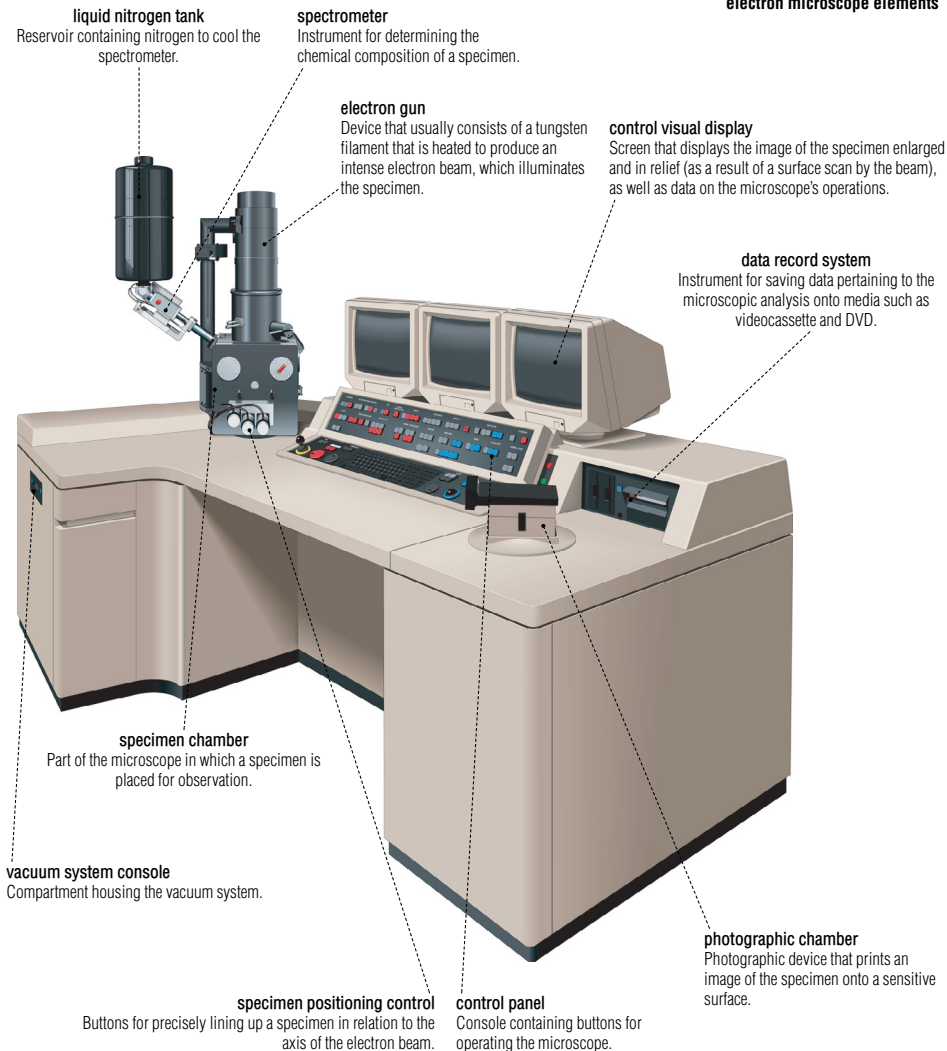
magnifying glass and microscopes

cross section of an electron microscope

Electron microscope: it uses an electron beam (as opposed to light) to provide magnification that is markedly superior to that of an optical microscope.



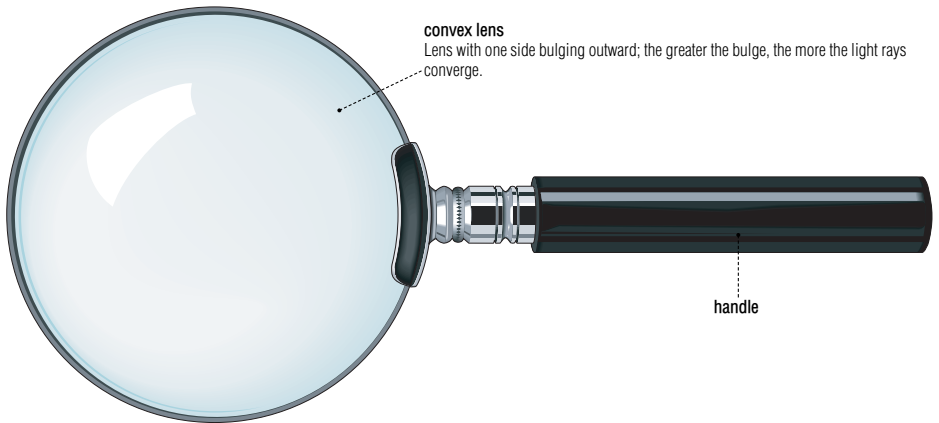
electron microscope elements



magnifying glass and microscopes

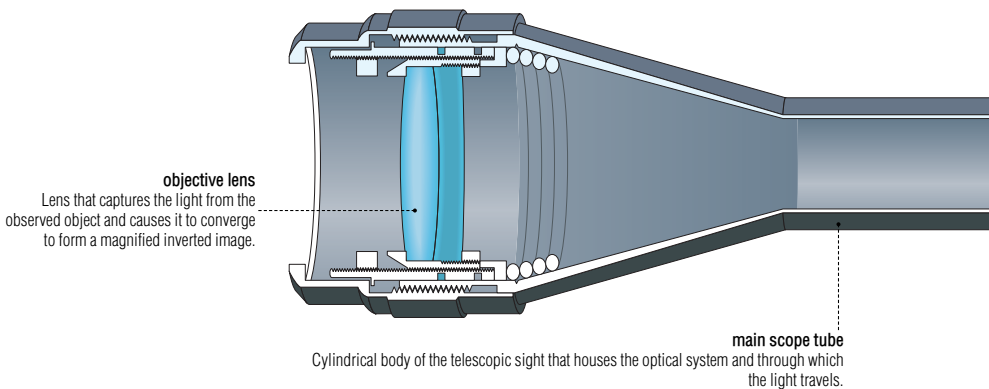
magnifying glass

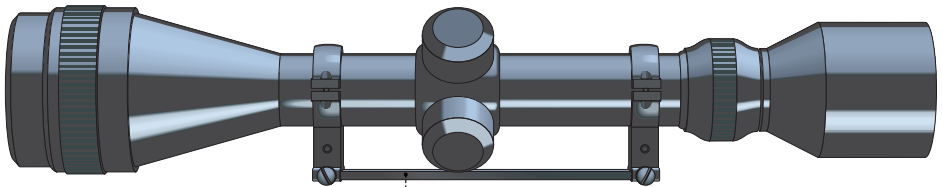
Converging lens that magnifies the image of an object.



telescopic sight

Optical instrument mounted on a rifle or a measuring device to increase accuracy.



**dovetail**

Device for mounting the telescopic sight onto a device or firearm.

elevation adjustment

Button for positioning the sight vertically to offset any divergence of the target from the reticle.

erecting lenses

Lens system that returns the inverted image formed on the objective lens.

field lens

Lens placed between the objective and the eyepiece to widen the field of vision.

eyepiece

Optical disk or system of disks through which the eye sees the image produced by the lens.

winding adjustment

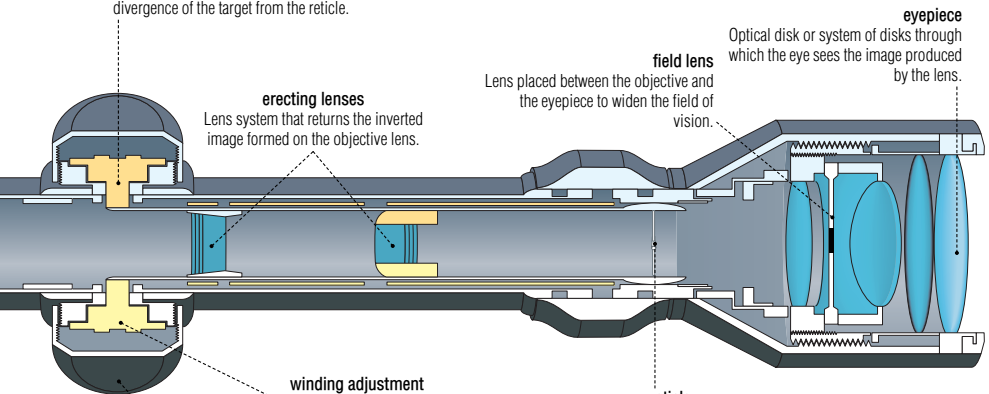
Button for positioning the sight horizontally to offset any divergence of the target from the reticle.

reticle

Optical system made up of two fine crossed wires to create a precise point as a sighting reference.

turret cap

Part covering and protecting an adjustment button.



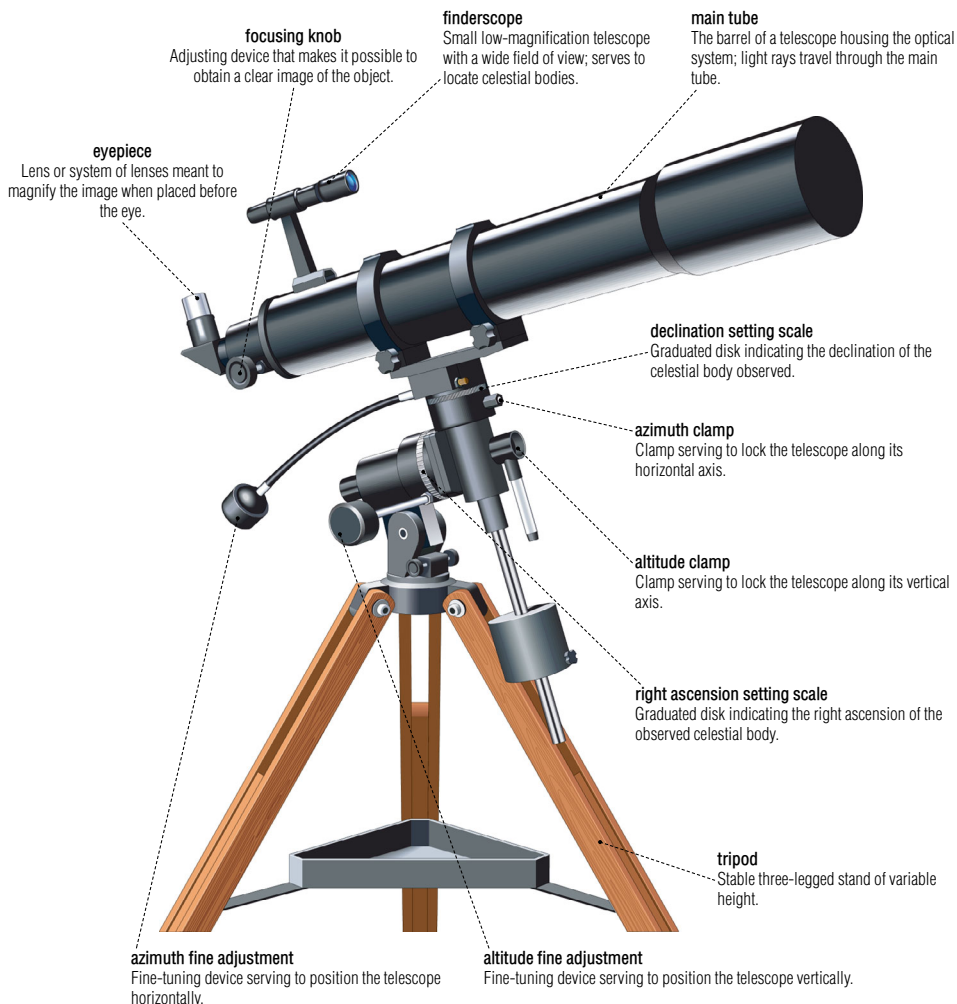
reflecting telescope

Optical instrument that uses an objective mirror to observe celestial bodies.



refracting telescope

Optical instrument that uses an objective lens to observe celestial bodies.



measure of temperature

Temperature: physical quantity corresponding to the level of heat or cold, which is measured by means of a thermometer.

thermometer

Instrument for measuring temperature by means of a substance (usually a liquid or a gas) contained in a graduated tube.

Fahrenheit scale

Temperature scale that is used in some English-speaking countries, on which the freezing point of water is at 32 and the boiling point at 212.

F degrees

Symbol representing a unit of measurement on the Fahrenheit scale (Fahrenheit degree).

Celsius scale

Temperature scale that is based on a graduation from 0 (freezing point of water) to 100 (boiling point of water); it was formerly called the centigrade scale.

C degrees

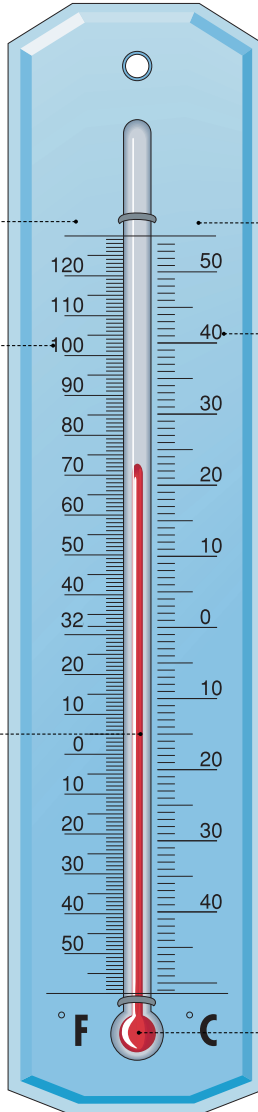
Symbol representing a unit of measurement on the Celsius scale (Celsius degree).

alcohol column

Quantity of alcohol that is contained in the glass tube; its height varies with the temperature.

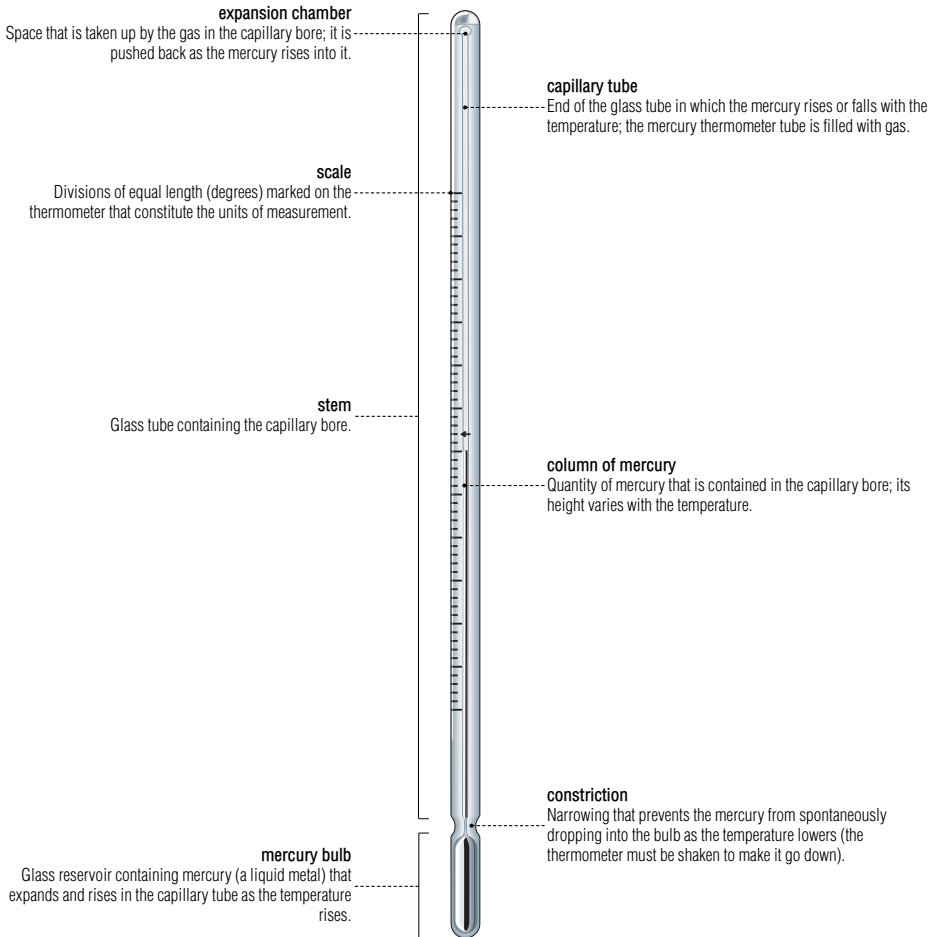
alcohol bulb

Glass reservoir containing colored alcohol (methanol, ethanol) that expands and rises in the capillary bore as the temperature rises.



clinical thermometer

More precise than the alcohol thermometer, it is used to take the temperature of the human body; it is graduated from 94°F to 108°F .



measure of temperature

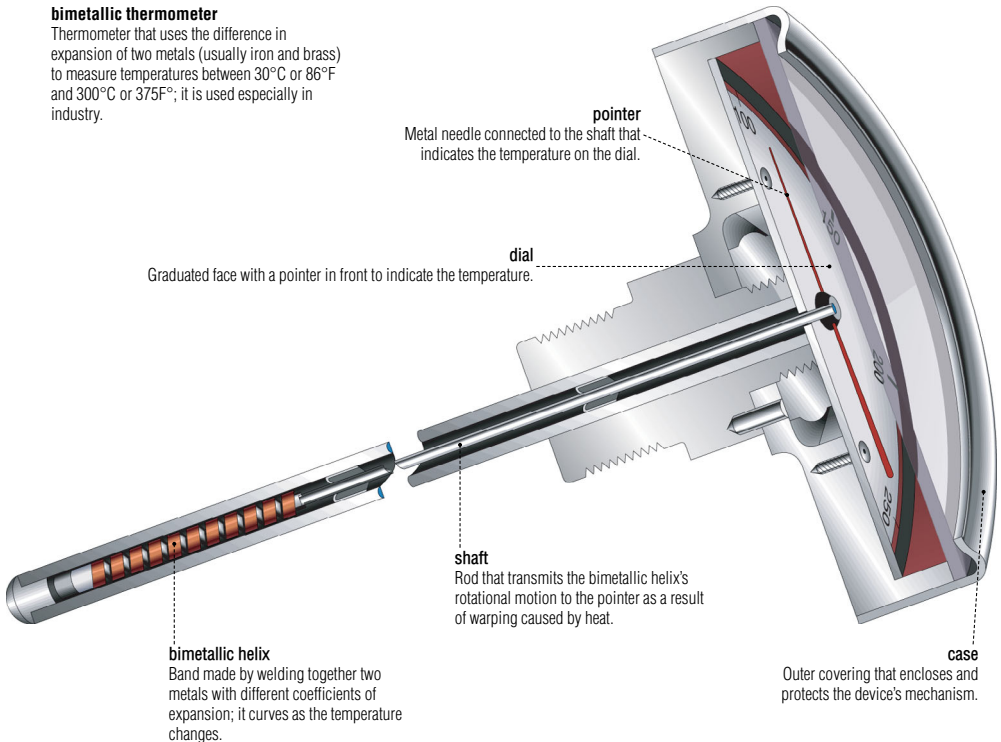
digital thermometer

Thermometer that indicates the temperature in digits on a liquid crystal display screen.



bimetallic thermometer

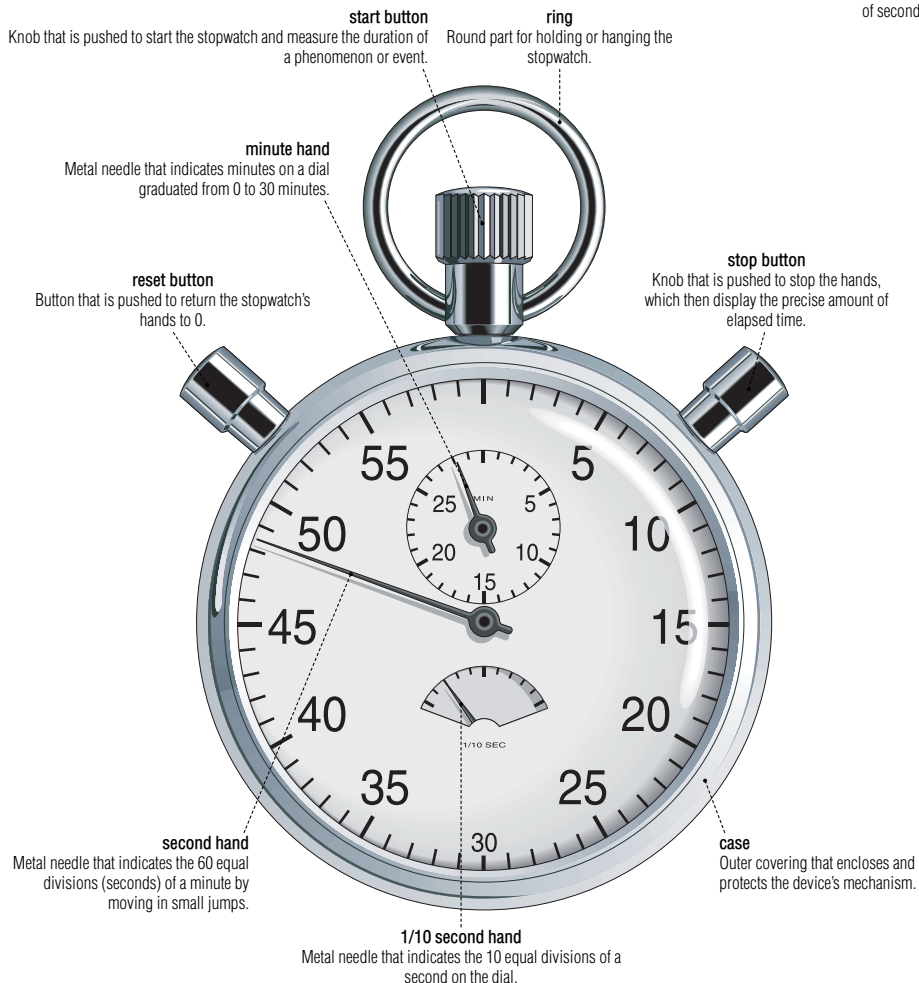
Thermometer that uses the difference in expansion of two metals (usually iron and brass) to measure temperatures between 30°C or 86°F and 300°C or 375°F; it is used especially in industry.



Time: physical quantity corresponding to a phenomenon or an event that is measured with devices such as watches and stopwatches.

stopwatch

Instrument that precisely measures time in minutes, seconds and fractions of seconds.



mechanical watch

Set of geared wheels that reduce the force transmitted by a spiral spring to cause the watch's hands to rotate.

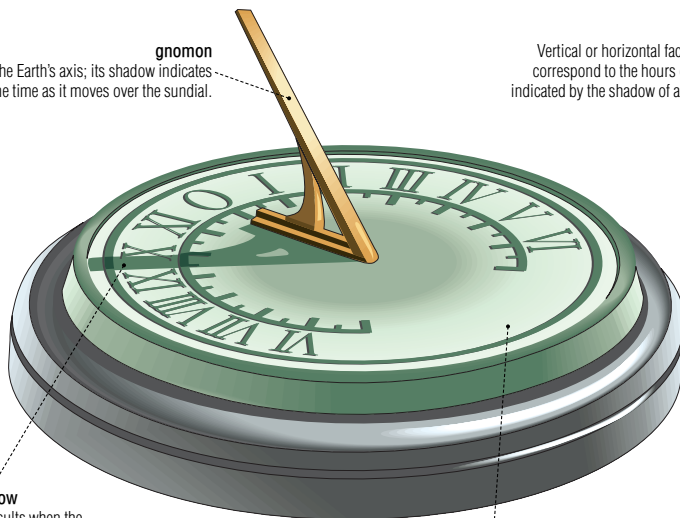


sundial

Vertical or horizontal face with divisions that correspond to the hours of the day, which are indicated by the shadow of a gnomon cast by the Sun.

gnomon

Part aligned with the Earth's axis; its shadow indicates the time as it moves over the sundial.



shadow

Dark area that results when the gnomon blocks the sunlight and indicates the time in accordance with the position of the Sun.

dial

Face marked with numbers over which shadows are cast by the gnomon to indicate the approximate time of day.

analog watch

The time is displayed by hands, which move around the dial.

digital watch

The time is read from letters and numbers that appear on a clear background.



liquid crystal display

Crystal that illuminates when submitted to light and displays the shapes of letters and numbers.

dial

Graduated face over which the hands move to indicate the time.



strap

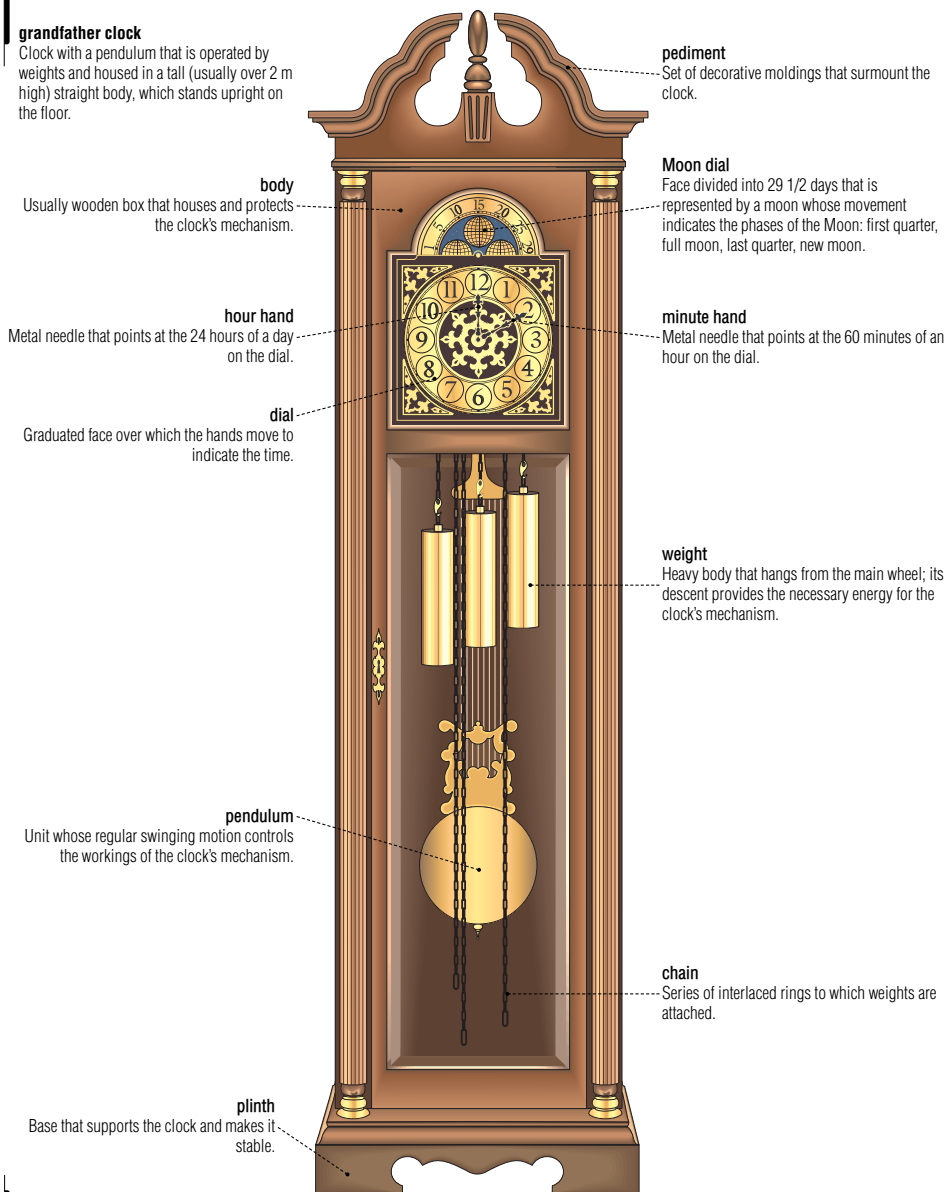
Leather, fabric, plastic or metal bracelet with a clasp; it is used to hold a watch on the wrist.

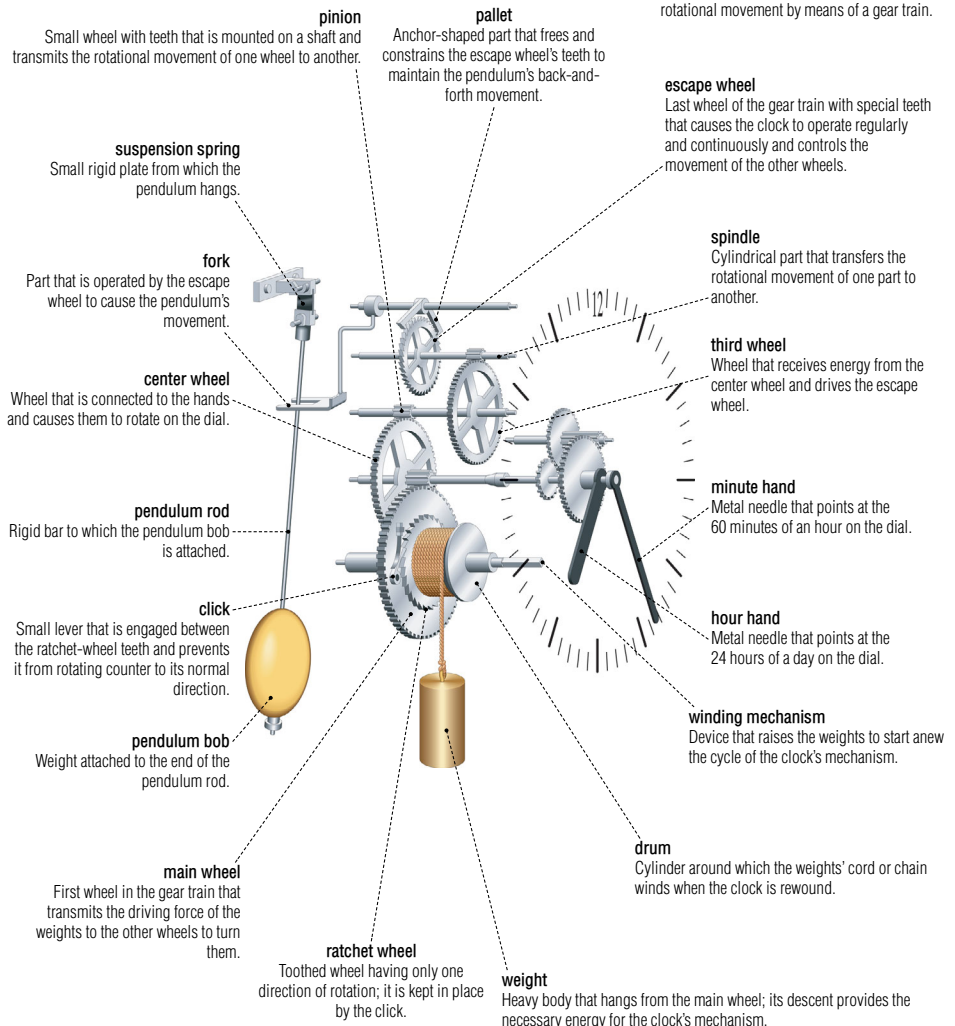
crown

Knob with sprockets that is connected to the winder; it is used to manually wind the watch and set its time.

grandfather clock

Clock with a pendulum that is operated by weights and housed in a tall (usually over 2 m high) straight body, which stands upright on the floor.



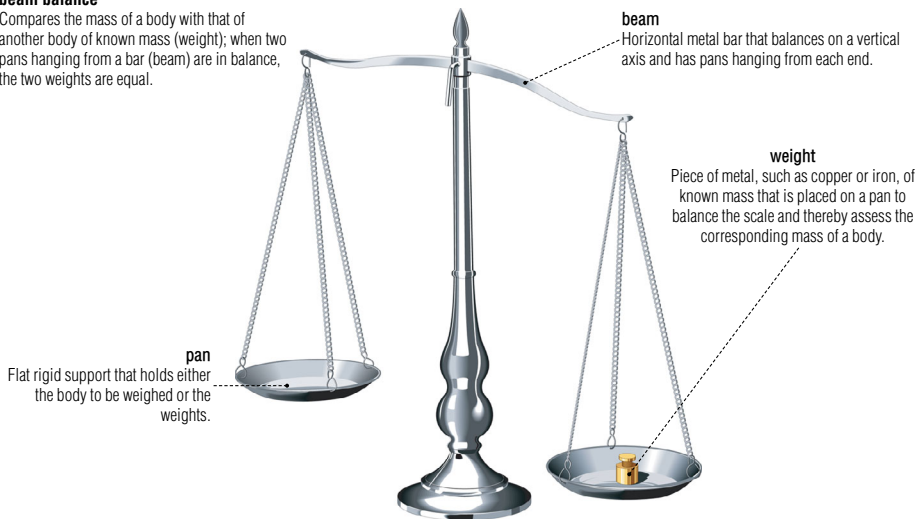


measure of weight

Mass: physical quantity that characterizes an amount of matter (mass) that is measured by means of a scale.

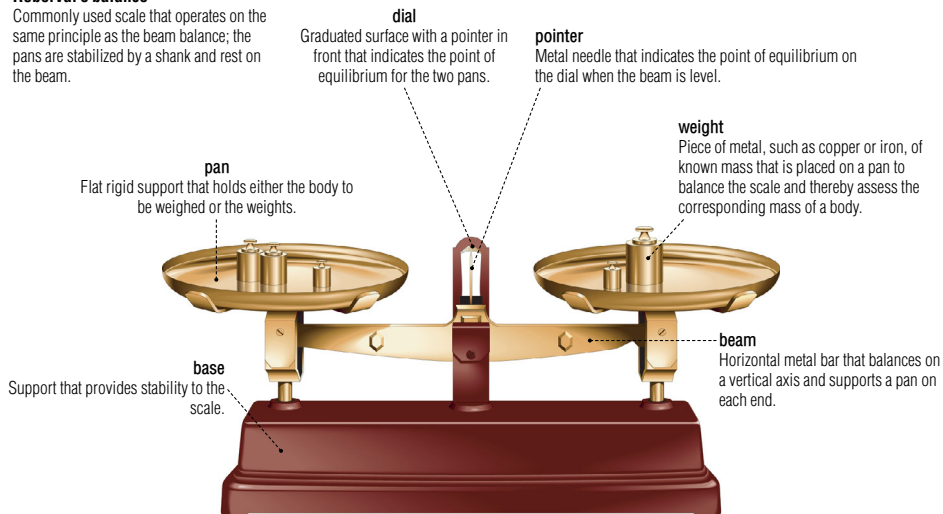
beam balance

Compares the mass of a body with that of another body of known mass (weight); when two pans hanging from a bar (beam) are in balance, the two weights are equal.



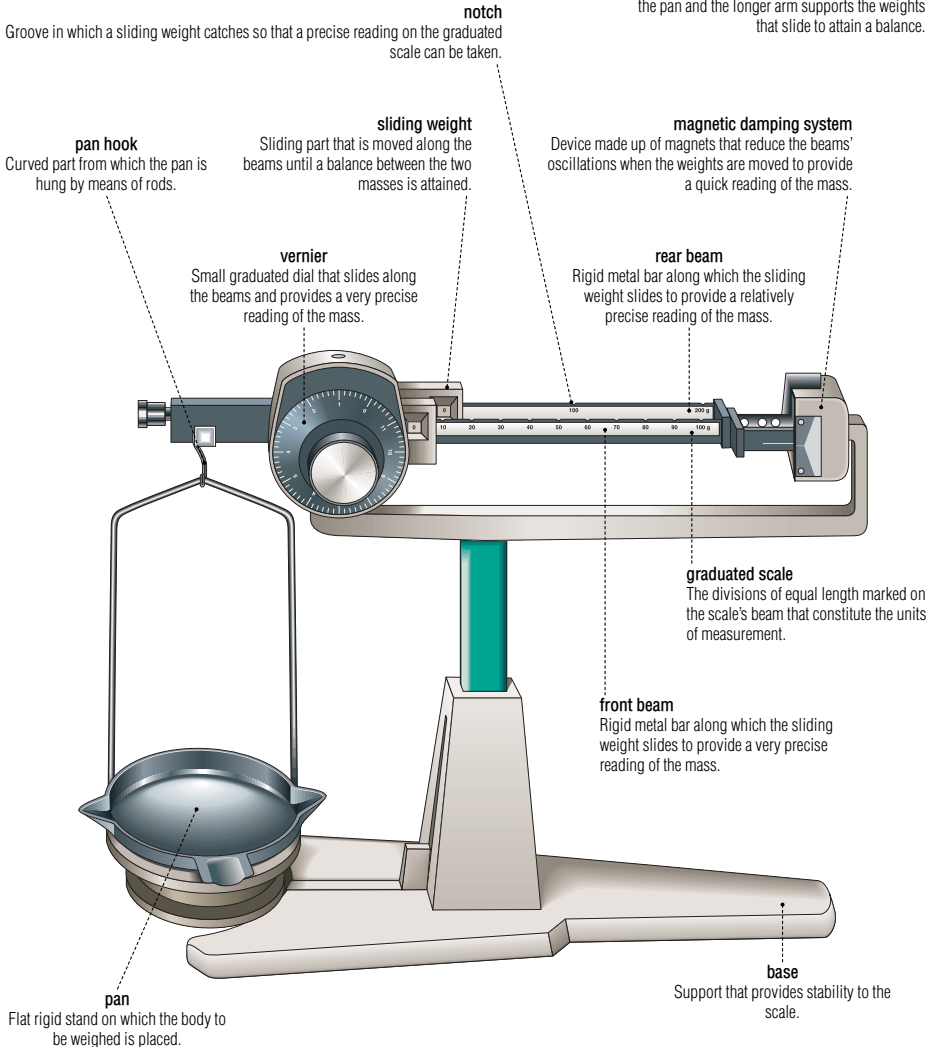
Roberval's balance

Commonly used scale that operates on the same principle as the beam balance; the pans are stabilized by a shank and rest on the beam.



steelyard

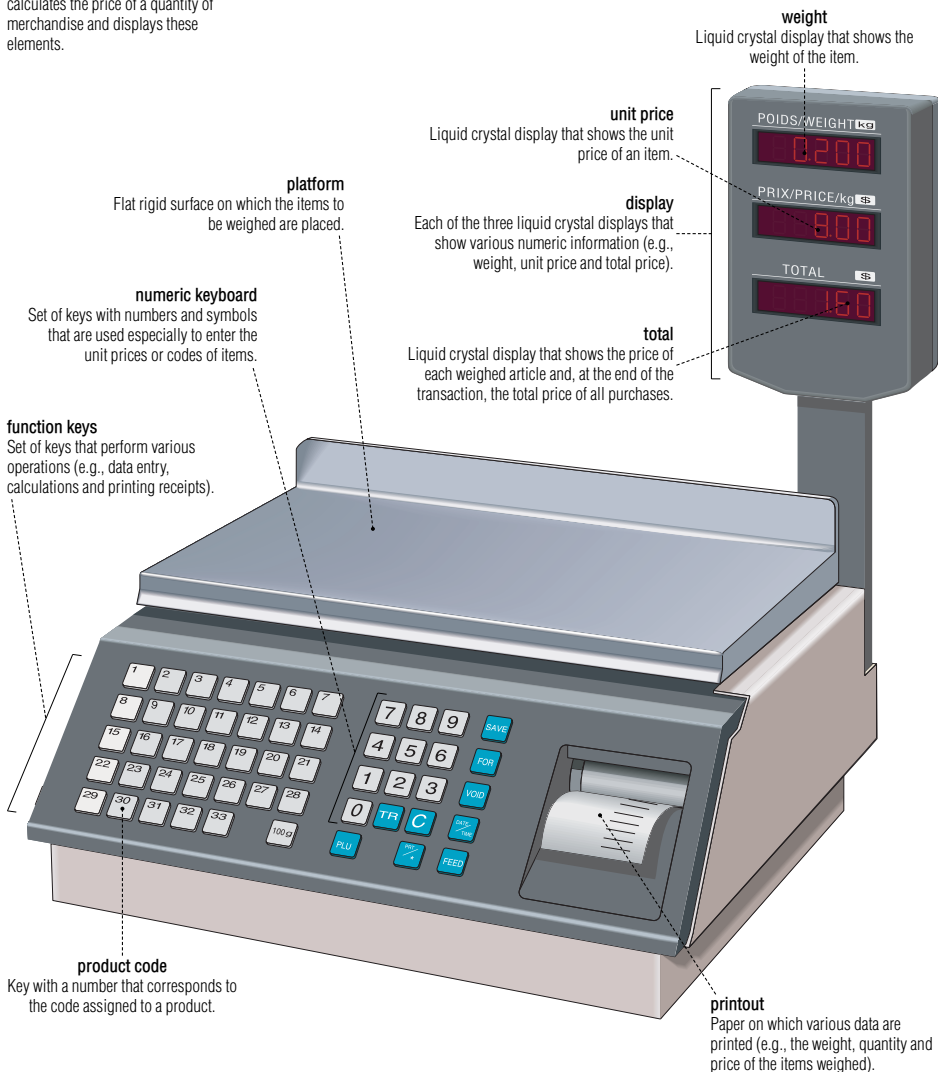
Scale used for weighing loads that has a beam with arms of different lengths; the shorter arm supports the pan and the longer arm supports the weights that slide to attain a balance.



measure of weight

electronic scale

Commercial scale that weighs and calculates the price of a quantity of merchandise and displays these elements.



analytical balance

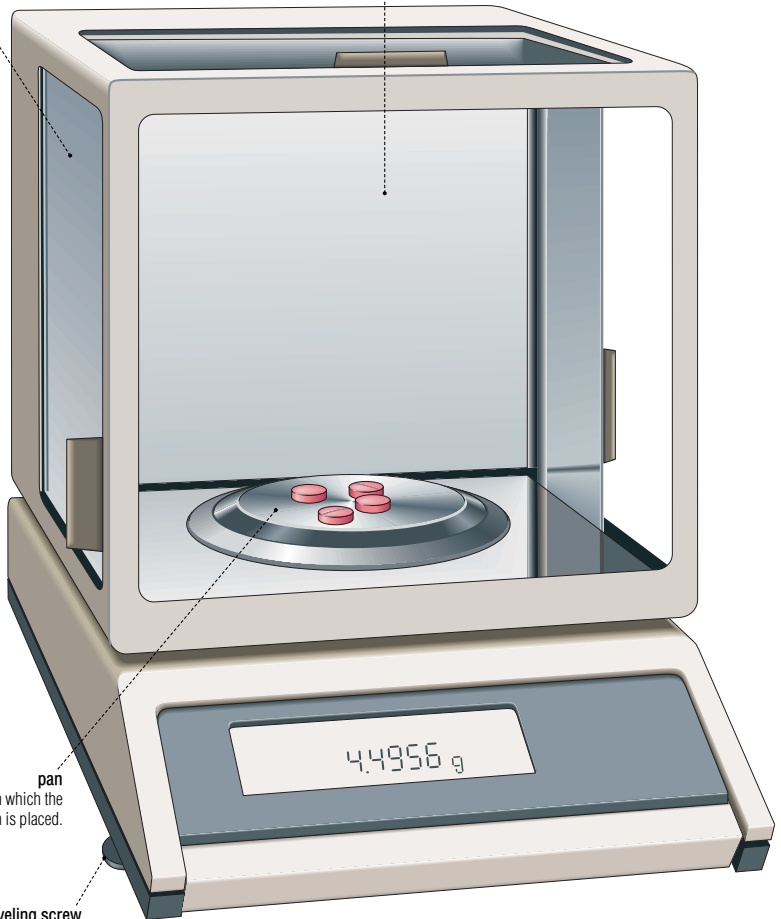
Used especially in the laboratory for taking very precise weight measurements.

door access

Sliding doors that provide easy access to the inside of the glass case.

glass case

Glass box that protects the pan from air currents and dust that might cause a false reading of the weight.

**pan**

Flat rigid support on which the specimen is placed.

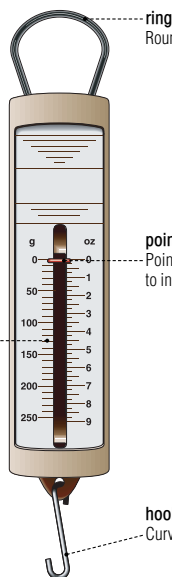
leveling screw

Screw for adjusting the level of the balance's base.

measure of weight

spring balance

Scale made up of a hook attached to a spring that stretches in proportion to the weight of the object being weighed.



ring
Round part for holding or hanging the spring balance.

pointer
Pointer connected to the spring that moves along a graduated scale to indicate the weight of the body being weighed.

graduated scale
The divisions of equal length that are marked on the spring balance and constitute the units of measurement.

hook
Curved part on which the body to be weighed is hung.

bathroom scale

Scale used for weighing a person; it has a spring mechanism that compresses in proportion to the weight.



digital display
Liquid crystal display that indicates the weight in numbers.

weighing platform
Flat base that a person stands upon to be weighed.

measure of length

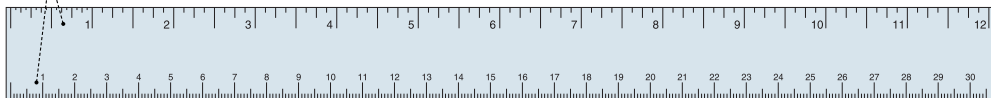
Length: the longer dimension of an object as opposed to its width.

scale

The divisions of equal length that are marked on the ruler and constitute the units of measurement.

ruler

Instrument for measuring length.

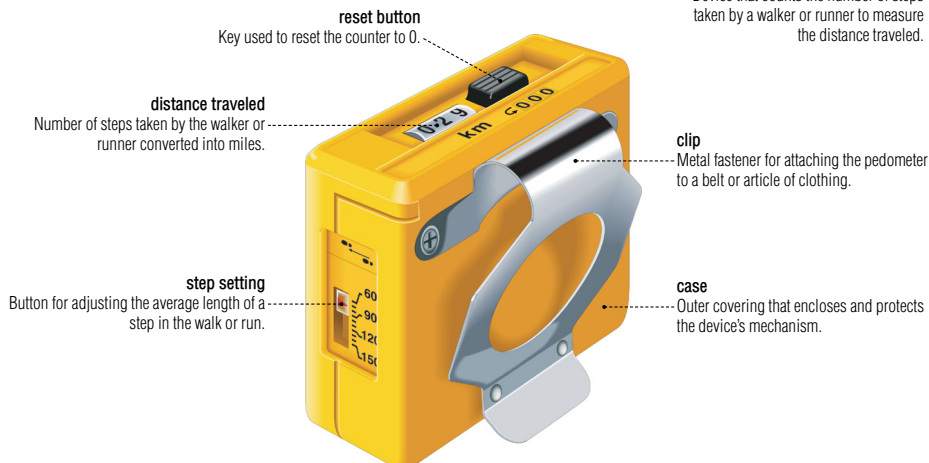


measure of distance

Distance: interval separating two points in space.

pedometer

Device that counts the number of steps taken by a walker or runner to measure the distance traveled.

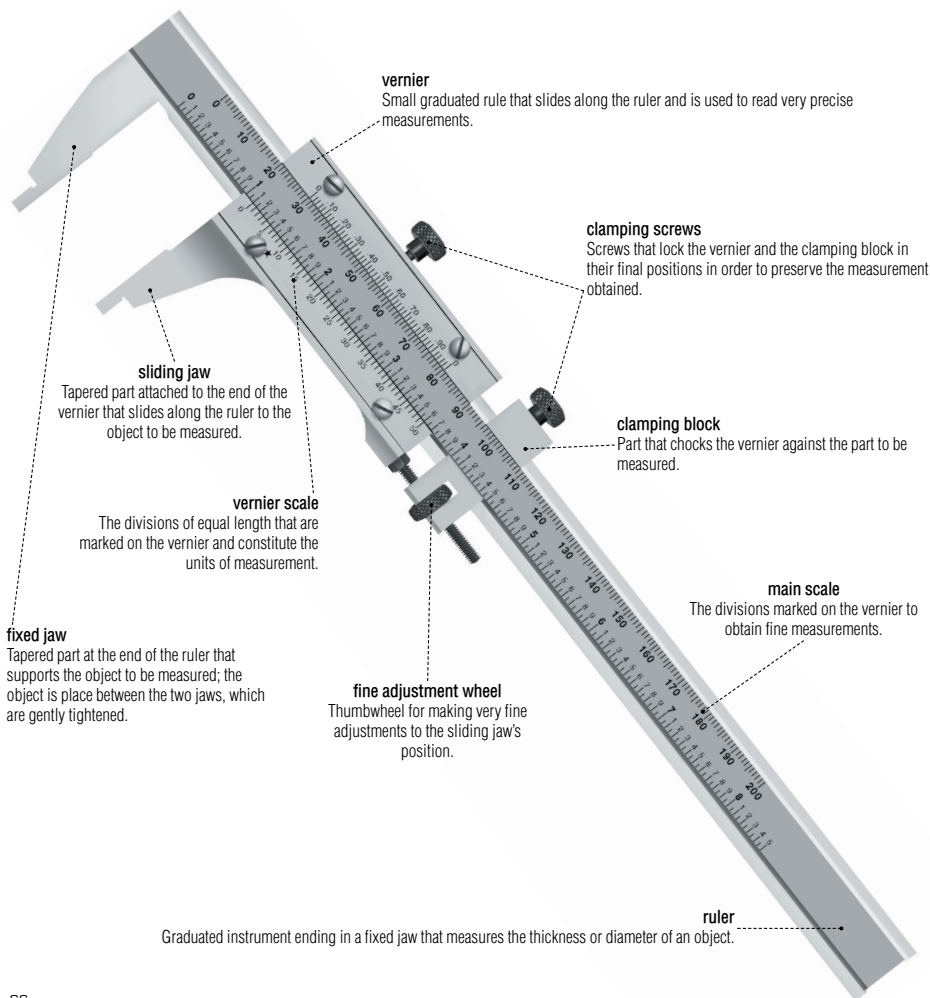


measure of thickness

Thickness: dimension corresponding to the distance between two surfaces of the same body.

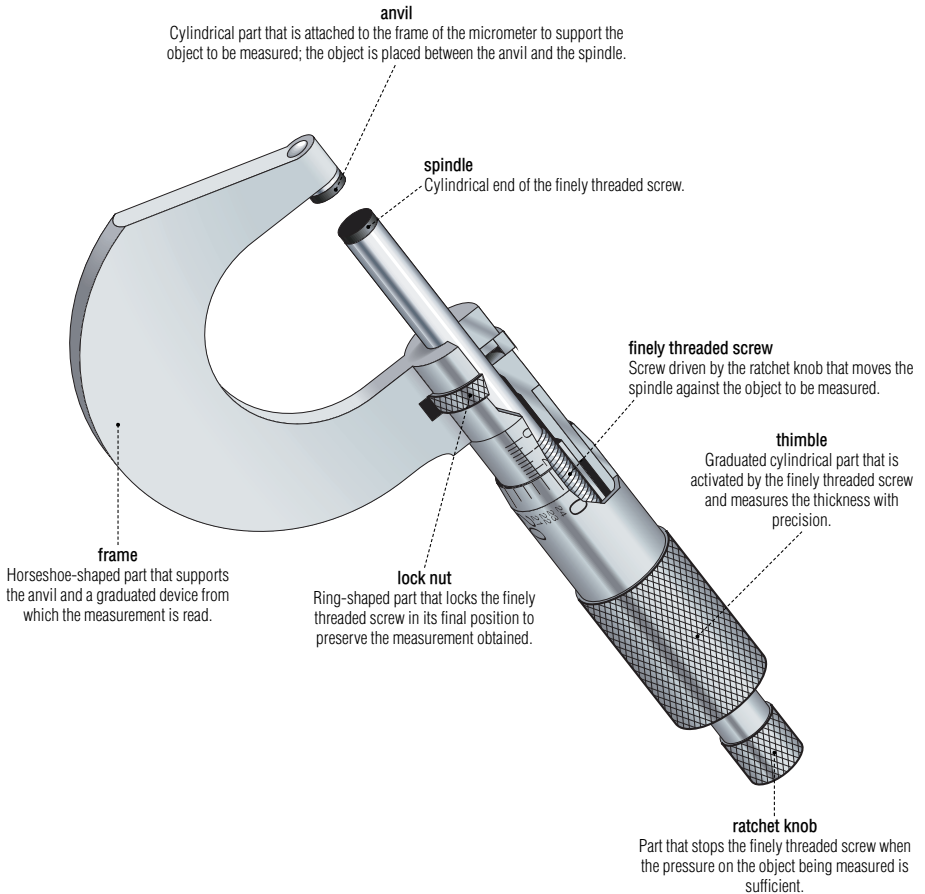
vernier caliper

Precision instrument for measuring the thickness and diameter of mechanical parts.



micrometer caliper

Instrument that measures the thickness or the diameter of relatively small parts; it produces finer results than a vernier caliper.



measure of angles

Angle: figure formed by two intersecting lines or planes; it is measured in degrees.

theodolite

Sighting instrument that is used especially in astronomy, geodesy and navigation for measuring horizontal and vertical angles.

optical sight
Device with an eyepiece that precisely aims the telescope at the target whose angles are to be measured.

alidade
Part of the theodolite that rotates on a vertical axle to measure angles by means of the telescope.

adjustment for vertical-circle image
Knob that adjusts the sharpness of the image of the vertical circle (graduated from 0° to 360°) in order to read the angles on the vertical axis.

micrometer screw
Knob that adjusts the micrometer to give a very precise reading of the circles' measurements.

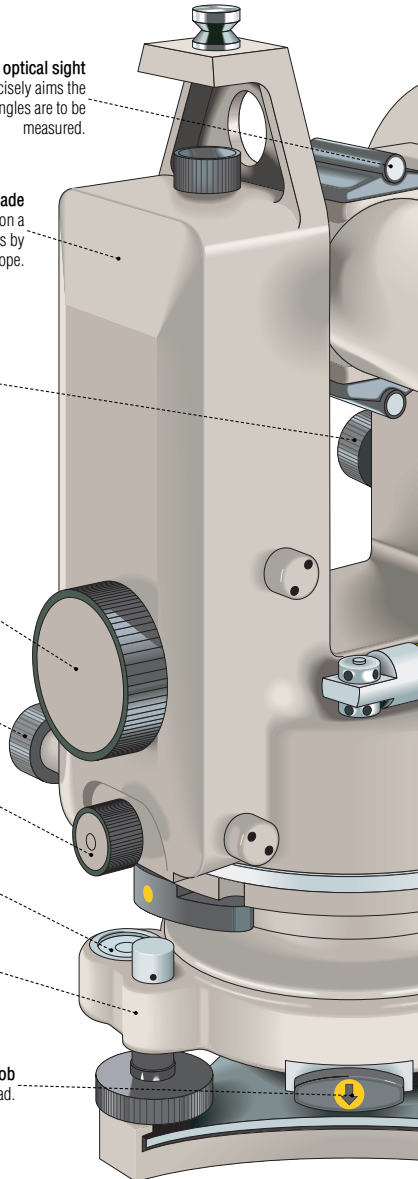
adjustment for horizontal-circle image
Knob that adjusts the sharpness of the image of the horizontal circle (graduated from 0° to 360°) in order to read the angles on the horizontal axis.

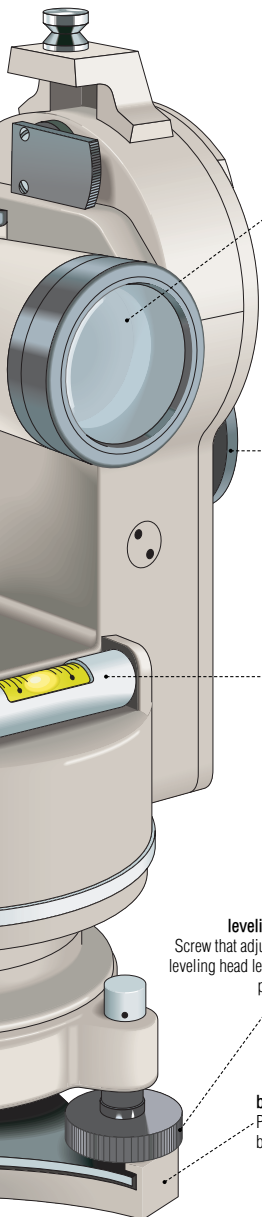
horizontal clamp
Knob that locks the alidade to prevent it from rotating.

leveling head level
Transparent tube that contains liquid and an air bubble; it serves as a guide for positioning the leveling head on the horizontal axis.

leveling head
Platform serving as a support for the theodolite.

leveling head locking knob
Knob that locks the alidade to the leveling head.





telescope

Optical instrument composed of several lenses; it can be adjusted in the horizontal and vertical planes and is used to observe distant objects.

illumination mirror

Adjustable polished glass surface that reflects light onto the circles so that the angles can be read.

alidade level

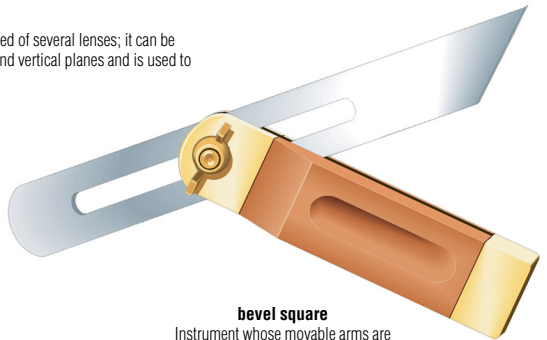
Transparent tube that contains liquid and an air bubble; it serves as a guide for positioning the alidade on the vertical axis.

leveling screw

Screw that adjusts the theodolite's leveling head level on the horizontal plane.

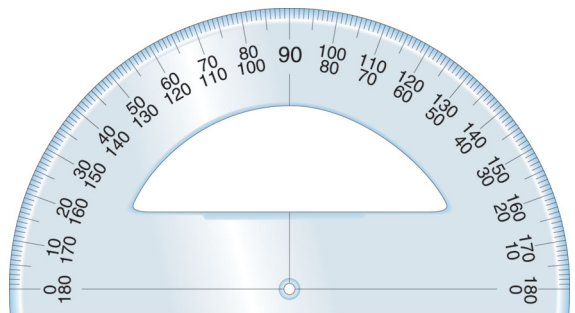
base plate

Plate to which the leveling head is attached by means of three leveling screws.



bevel square

Instrument whose movable arms are used for measuring or for marking an angle.



protractor

Graduated semicircular instrument for measuring and drawing angles.

international system of units

Decimal system established by the 11th General Conference on Weights and Measures (GCWM) in 1960 and used by many countries.

measurement of electric potential difference

V

volt

Difference in potential between two points of a conductor carrying a constant current of 1 ampere when the power between these points is 1 watt.

measurement of electric charge

C

coulomb

Amount of electricity carried in 1 second by a current of 1 ampere.

measurement of frequency

Hz

hertz

Frequency of a periodic phenomenon whose period is 1 second.

measurement of energy

J

joule

Amount of energy released by the force of 1 newton acting through a distance of 1 meter.

measurement of power

W

watt

Energy transfer of 1 joule during 1 second.

measurement of force

N

newton

Force required to impart an acceleration of 1 m/s^2 to a body having a mass of 1 kg.

measurement of electric resistance

 Ω

ohm

Electrical resistance between two points of a conductor carrying a current of 1 ampere when the difference in potential between them is 1 volt.

measurement of electric current

A

ampere

Constant current of 1 joule per second in a conductor.

measurement of length

m**meter**

Distance traveled by light in a vacuum in 1/299,792,458 of a second.

measurement of mass

kg**kilogram**

Mass of a platinum prototype that was accepted as the international reference in 1889; it is stored at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.

measurement of Celsius temperature

°C**degree Celsius**

Division into 100 parts of the difference between the freezing point of water (0°C) and its boiling point (100°C) at standard atmospheric pressure.

measurement of thermodynamic temperature

K**kelvin**

Zero degrees Kelvin is equal to minus 273.16°C.

measurement of amount of substance

mol**mole**

Quantity of matter equal to the number of atoms in 0.012 kg of carbon 12.

measurement of pressure

Pa**pascal**

Uniform pressure exerted on a flat surface of 1 m² with a force of 1 newton.

measurement of radioactivity

Bq**becquerel**

Radioactivity of a substance in which one atom disintegrates per second.

measurement of luminous intensity

cd**candela**

Unit of light intensity equivalent to a radiant intensity of 1/683 watts per steradian (solid angle).

mathematics

The science that uses deductive reasoning to study the properties of abstract entities such as numbers, space and functions and the relations between them.

 $-$

minus/negative

Sign denoting that a number is to be subtracted from another; the result is a difference.

 $+$

plus/positive

Sign denoting that a number is to be added to another; the result is a sum.

 \times

multiplied by

Sign denoting that a number is to be multiplied by another; the result is a product.

 \div

divided by

Sign denoting a number (dividend) is to be divided by another (divisor); the result is a quotient.

 $=$

equals

Sign denoting the result of an operation.

 \neq

is not equal to

Sign denoting that the result of an operation is not close to the same value as the one on the right.

 \approx

is approximately equal to

Sign denoting that the result of an operation is close to the same value as the one on the right.

 \sim

is equivalent to

Sign denoting that the value on the left is the same magnitude as the one on the right.

 \equiv

is identical with

Binary sign denoting that the result of the operation noted on the left has the same value as the operation noted on the right.

 \ncong

is not identical with

Binary sign denoting that the result of the operation noted on the left does not have the same value as the operation noted on the right.

 \emptyset

empty set

Sign denoting that a set contains no elements.

 \cup

union of two sets

Binary sign denoting that a set is composed of the sum of the elements of two sets.

 \cap

intersection of two sets

Binary sign denoting that two sets M and N have elements in common.

 \subset

is included in/is a subset of

Binary sign denoting that a set A on the left is part of the set B on the right.

**plus or minus**

Sign denoting that the number that follows denotes an order of magnitude.

**is less than or equal to**

Sign denoting that the result of an operation is equal to or of smaller magnitude than the number that follows.

**is greater than**

Sign denoting that the value on the left is of greater magnitude than the number that follows.

**is greater than or equal to**

Sign denoting that the result of an operation is equal to or of greater magnitude than the number that follows.

**is less than**

Sign denoting that the value on the left is of smaller magnitude than the number that follows.

**percent**

Sign denoting that the number preceding it is a fraction of 100.

**is an element of**

Binary sign denoting that the element on the left is included in the set on the right.

**is not an element of**

Binary sign denoting that the element on the left is not included in the set on the right.

**sum**

Sign indicating that several values are to be added together (their sum).

**square root of**

Sign denoting that, when a number is multiplied by itself, the result is the number that appears below the bar.

**fraction**

Sign denoting that the number on the left of the slash (numerator) is one part of the number on the right of the slash (denominator).

**infinity**

Symbol denoting that a value has no upper limit.

**integral**

Result of the integral calculation used especially to determine an area and to resolve a differential equation.

**factorial**

Product of all positive whole numbers less than and equal to a given number. For example, the factorial of 4 is: $4! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 = 24$.

mathematics

Roman numerals

Uppercase letters that represented numbers in ancient Rome; they are still seen today in uses such as clock and watch dials and pagination.

I**one**

Letter whose value is 1 unit.

V**five**

Letter whose value is 5 units.

X**ten**

Letter whose value is 10 units.

L**fifty**

Letter whose value is 50 units.

C**one hundred**

Letter whose value is 100 units.

D**five hundred**

Letter whose value is 500 units.

M**one thousand**

Letter whose value is 1,000 units.

biology

The scientific study of living organisms (humans, animals and plants) from the point of view of their structure and how they function and reproduce.

♂**male**

Symbol denoting that a being has male reproductive organs.

♀**female**

Symbol denoting that a being has female reproductive organs.

Rh+**blood factor positive**

Individuals are Rh positive when their red blood cells carry an Rh molecule (antigen); the Rh factor is positive in about 85% of the population.

Rh-**blood factor negative**

Individuals not carrying the Rh molecule (antigen) are Rh negative; the Rh factor plays an important role in pregnancy (the parents' factors must be compatible).

†**death**

Symbol placed before a date denoting a person's year of death.

*******birth**

Symbol placed before a date denoting a person's year of birth.

Mathematical discipline that studies the relations between points, straight lines, curves, surfaces and volumes.

**degree**

Symbol placed in superscript after a number to denote the opening of an angle or the length of an arc, or in front of an uppercase letter to identify a scale of measurement.

**minute**

Symbol placed in superscript after a number that denotes degrees in sixtieths of a measure.

**second**

Symbol placed in superscript after a number that denotes degrees in sixtieths of a minute.

**pi**

Constant that represents the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter; its value is approximately 3.1416.

**perpendicular**

Symbol denoting that a straight line meets another at a right angle.

**is parallel to**

Symbol denoting that two straight lines remain at a constant distance from one another.

**is not parallel to**

Symbol denoting that two straight lines do not remain at a constant distance from one other.

**right angle**

Angle formed by two lines or two perpendicular planes that measures 90°.

**obtuse angle**

Angle between 90° and 180°.

**acute angle**

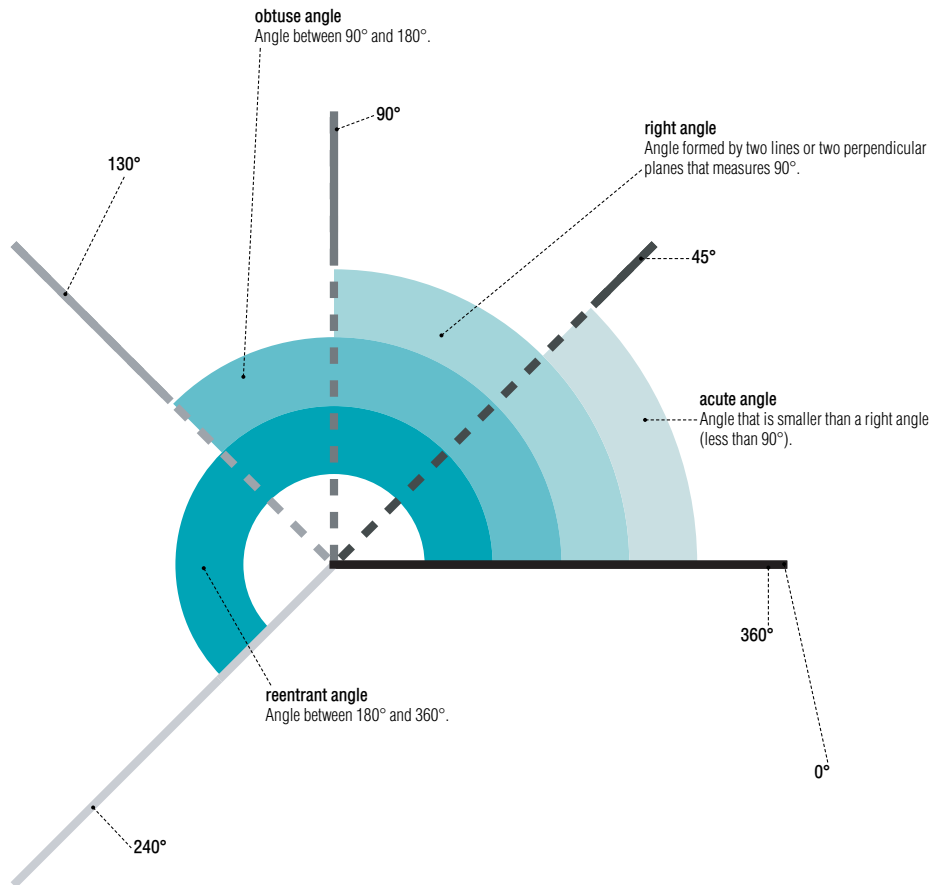
Angle that is smaller than a right angle (less than 90°).

geometrical shapes

Drawings that represent various geometric forms such as straight lines, circles and polygons.

examples of angles

Angle: figure formed by two intersecting lines or planes; it is measured in degrees.

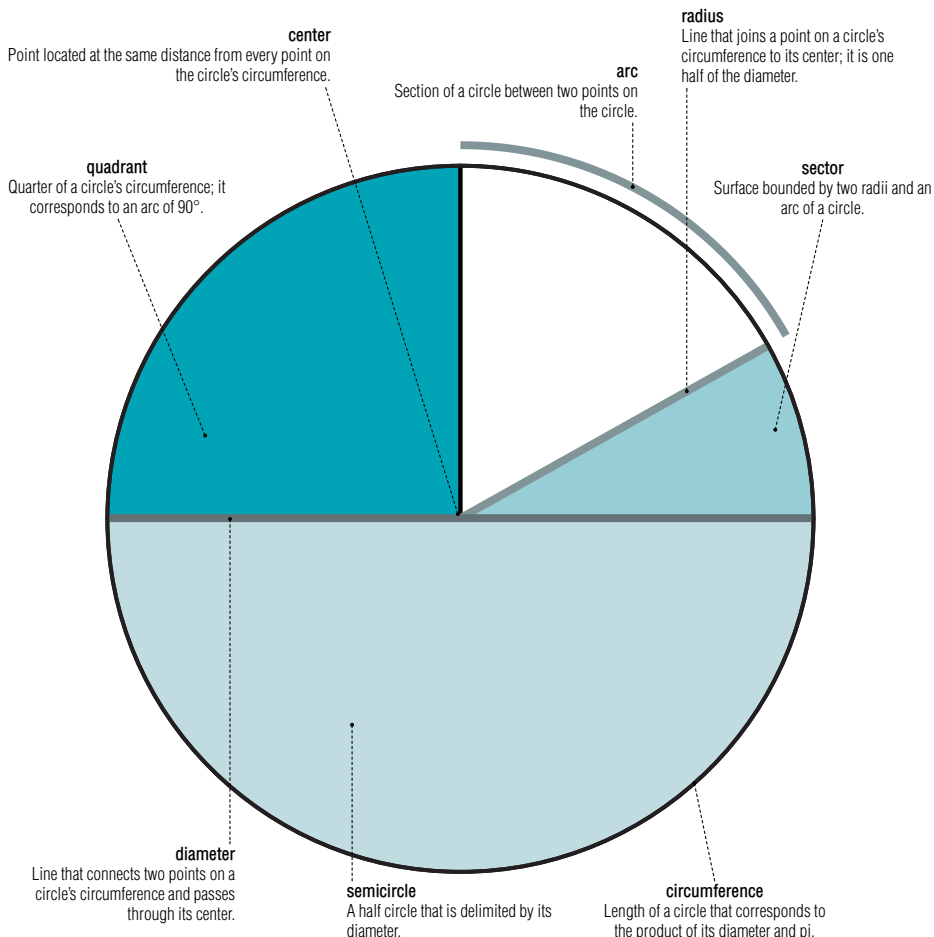


plane surfaces

Set of points on a plane that describes an area of space.

parts of a circle

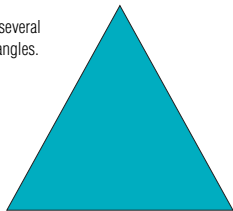
Circle: closed plane curve; all its points are the same distance from a fixed point (center).



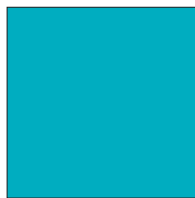
geometrical shapes

polygons

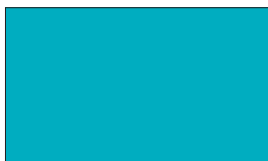
Geometric plane figures with several sides and a number of equal angles.

**triangle**

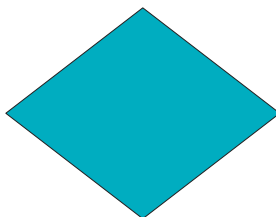
Three-sided polygon; triangles are scalene (no side is equal to any other) isosceles (two sides equal) or equilateral (all sides equal).

**square**

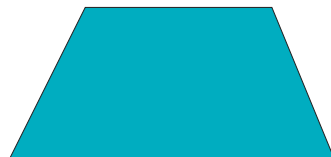
Equilateral rectangle with four right angles.

**rectangle**

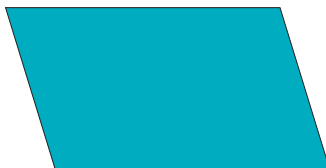
Quadrilateral whose opposite sides are equal in length; the sides meet at right angles.

**rhombus**

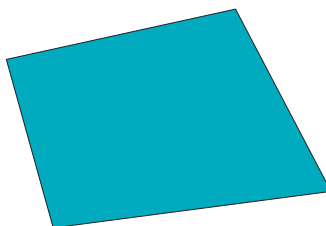
Equilateral parallelogram.

**trapezoid**

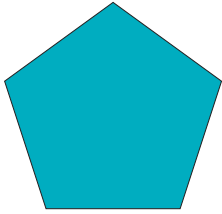
Quadrilateral with two sides (bases) that are parallel. It is isosceles when it has two sides that are not parallel and equal, and rectangle when two of its sides form a right angle.

**parallelogram**

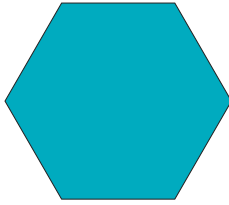
Trapezoid whose opposite sides are parallel and of equal length; the sides do not meet at right angles.

**quadrilateral**

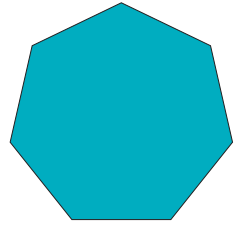
Any plane figure with four sides and four angles.

**regular pentagon**

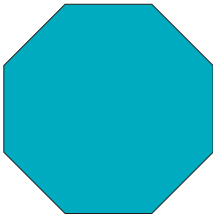
Polygon with five (penta = five) sides and equal angles.

**regular hexagon**

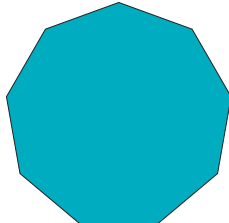
Polygon with six (hexa = six) sides and equal angles.

**regular heptagon**

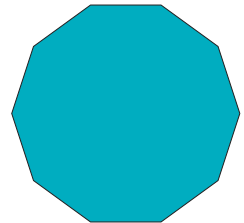
Polygon with seven (hepta = seven) sides and equal angles.

**regular octagon**

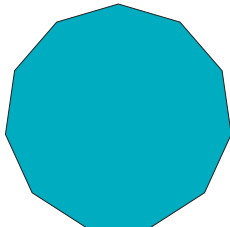
Polygon with eight (octo = eight) sides and equal angles.

**regular nonagon**

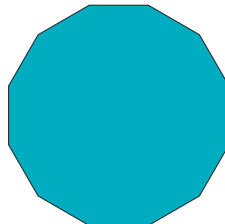
Polygon with nine (nona = nine) sides and equal angles.

**regular decagon**

Polygon with 10 (deca = ten) sides and equal angles.

**regular hendecagon**

Polygon with 11 (hendeca = eleven) sides and equal angles.

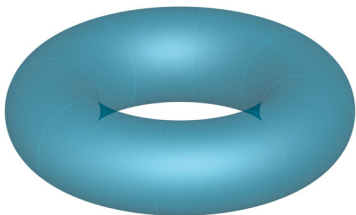
**regular dodecagon**

Polygon with 12 (dodeca = twelve) sides and equal angles.

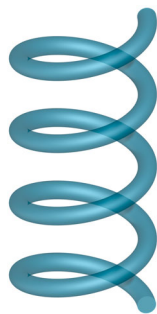
geometrical shapes

solids

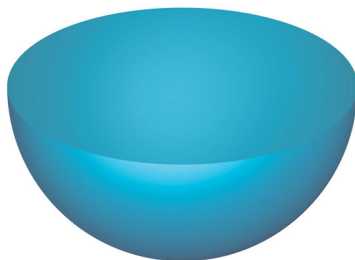
Geometric shapes in three dimensions that are delimited by surfaces.

**torus**

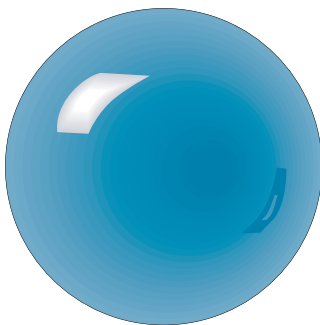
Volume or solid generated by the rotation of a circle at an equal distance from its center of rotation.

**helix**

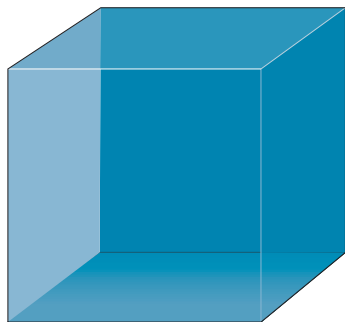
Volume or solid of spiral shape that turns toward the left at a constant angle.

**hemisphere**

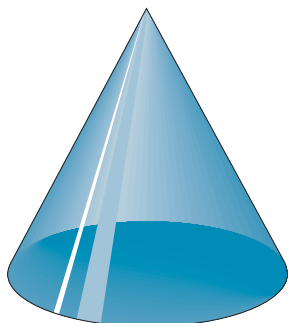
Half sphere cut along its diameter.

**sphere**

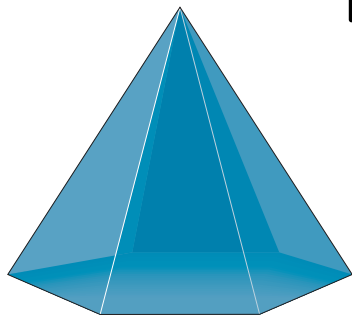
Volume with all the points on its surface the same distance from its center; the solid thus delimited is a round ball.

**cube**

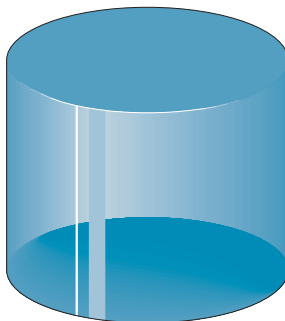
Volume or solid with six square sides of equal area and six equal edges; it has eight vertices.

**cone**

Volume or solid generated by the rotation of a straight line (generatrix) along a circular line (directrix) from a fixed point (vertex).

**pyramid**

Volume or solid generated by straight lines (edges) connecting the angles of a polygon (base) to the vertex and whose sides form triangles.

**cylinder**

Volume or solid generated by the rotation of a straight line (generatrix) moving along a curved line (directrix).

**parallelepiped**

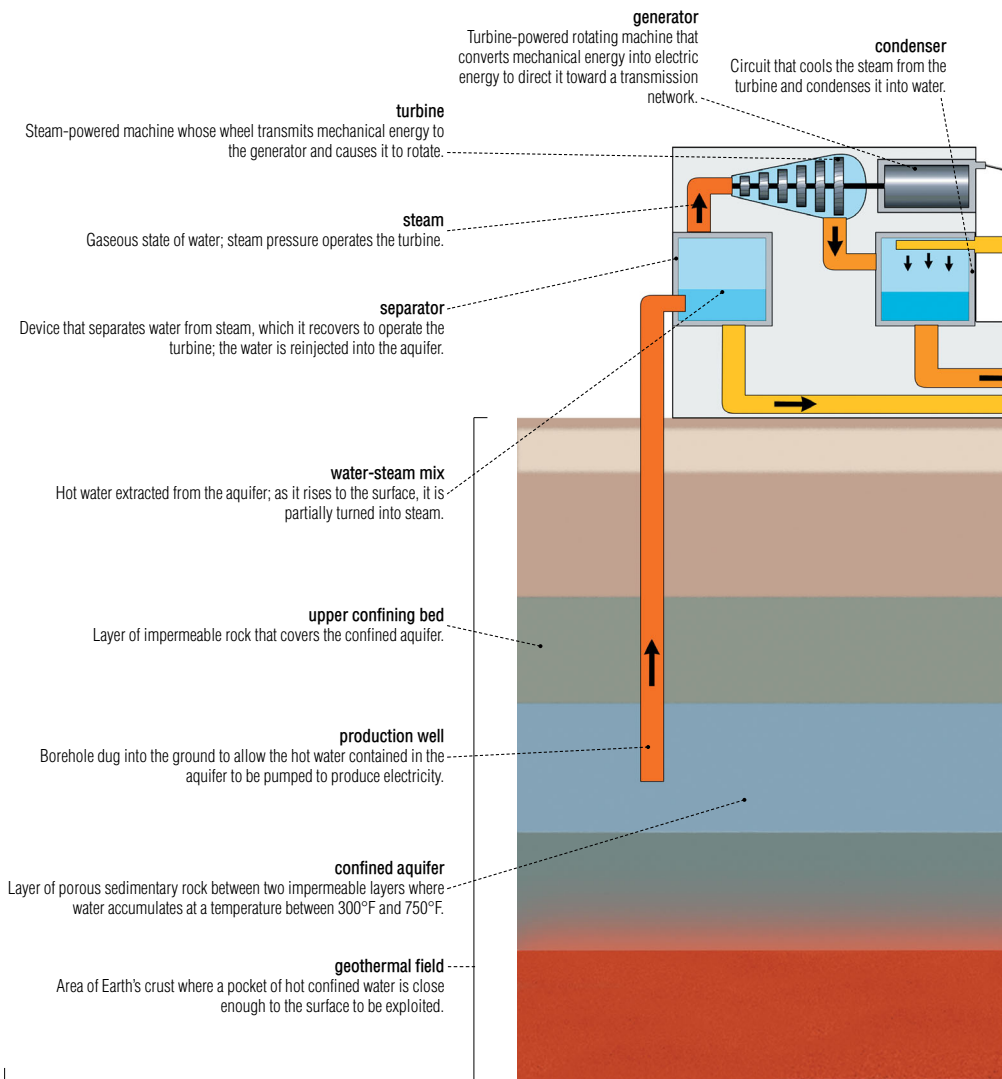
Volume or solid with six sides (parallelograms) that are parallel in pairs.

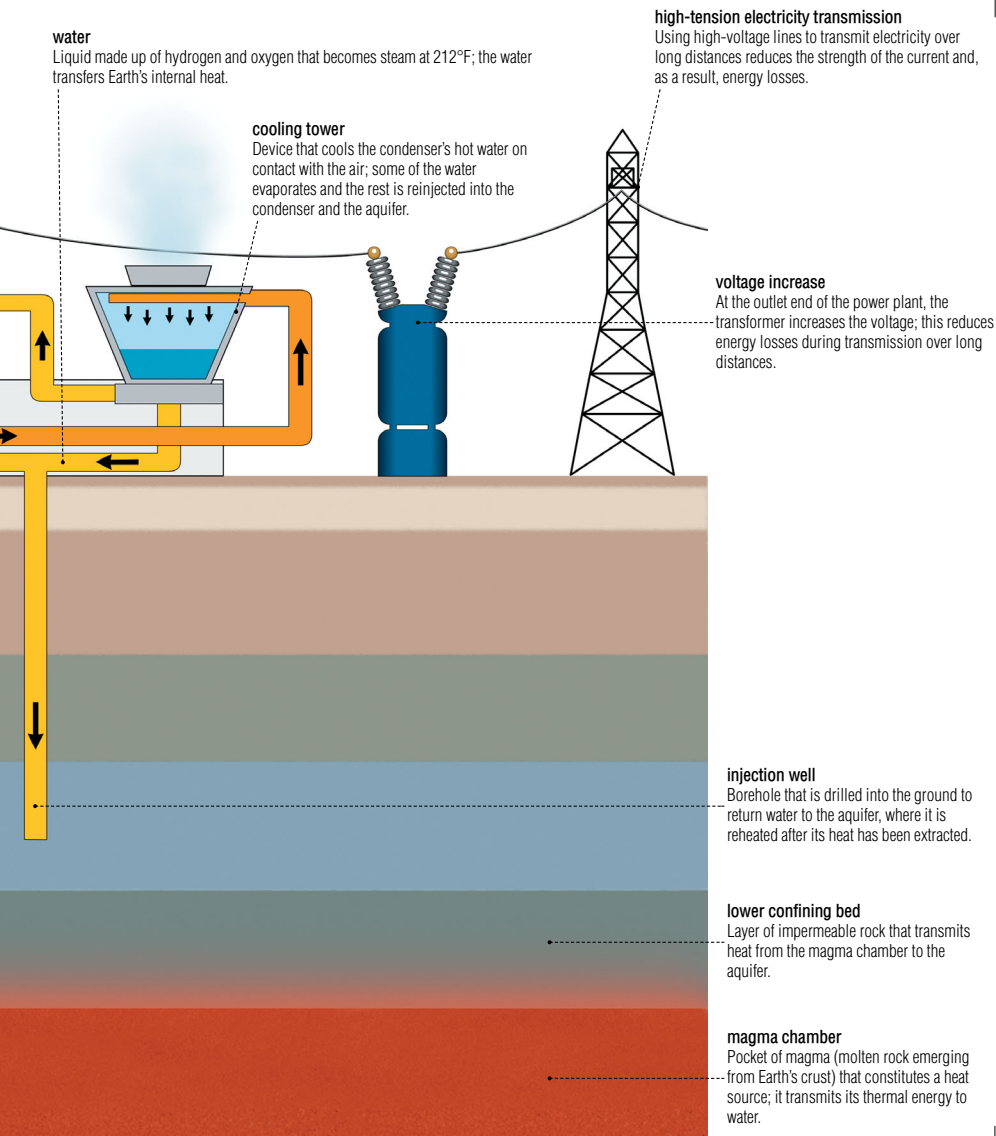
**regular octahedron**

Volume or solid with eight triangular sides of equal area; it has six vertices and 12 edges.

production of electricity from geothermal energy

Hot water contained in the ground near a volcano, geyser or thermal source is piped to the surface by drilling to extract steam and produce electricity.



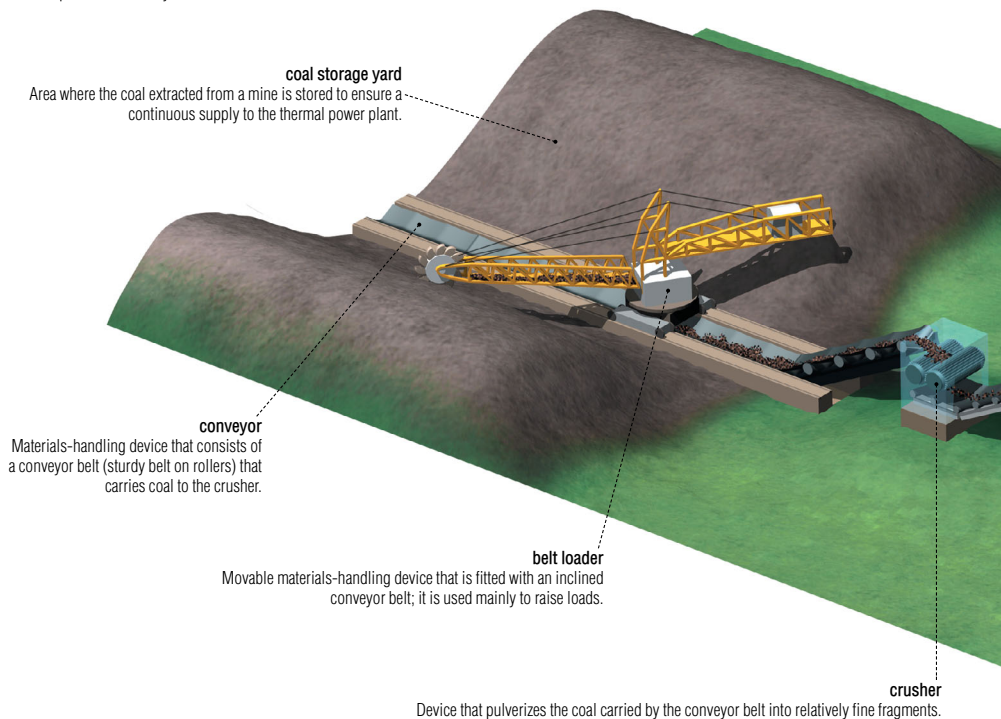


thermal energy

Energy that is produced by turning water into steam through the burning of fuel (e.g., petroleum and coal) or through nuclear reaction.

production of electricity from thermal energy

The heat that is given off by burning combustible fuels in the thermal power plant converts water into steam; the steam turns a turbo-alternator unit to produce electricity.



pulverizer

Device that pulverizes coal into a very fine powder so that it burns more easily in the steam generator.

steam generator

Device that uses the heat produced from burning coal to convert water into steam; the steam powers the turbo-alternator unit.

stack

Pipe through which gases produced by burning coal are discharged; these gases are first partially cleaned to reduce pollution.

cooling tower

Device that cools the heated water in the condenser through contact with the air; a small amount of water evaporates and the rest is re injected into the condenser.

voltage increase

At the outlet end of the power plant, the transformer increases the voltage; this reduces energy losses during transmission over long distances.

high-tension electricity transmission

Using high-voltage lines to transmit electricity over long distances reduces the strength of the current and, as a result, energy losses.

voltage decrease

The transformer reduces the voltage in order to increase the strength of the current; this allows a greater number of consumers to be served.

coal-fired thermal power plant

Plant that produces electricity from thermal energy by burning coal.

condenser

Circuit that cools the steam from the turbine and condenses it into water, which is reintroduced into the steam generator.

turbo-alternator unit

Device with a turbine that transmits the water's mechanical energy to the alternator's rotor to make it turn to produce electricity.

transmission to consumers

Electricity is carried to areas of consumption over low-voltage distribution lines.

coal mine

The underground or open-pit facilities that are set up around a coal deposit in order to extract it.

open-pit mine

Type of mining that is used for shallow deposits; coal or ore is extracted by digging a succession of benches from the surface of the ground downward.

bench

The levels of a quarry that are arranged like steps of a staircase and from which coal or ore is extracted.

face

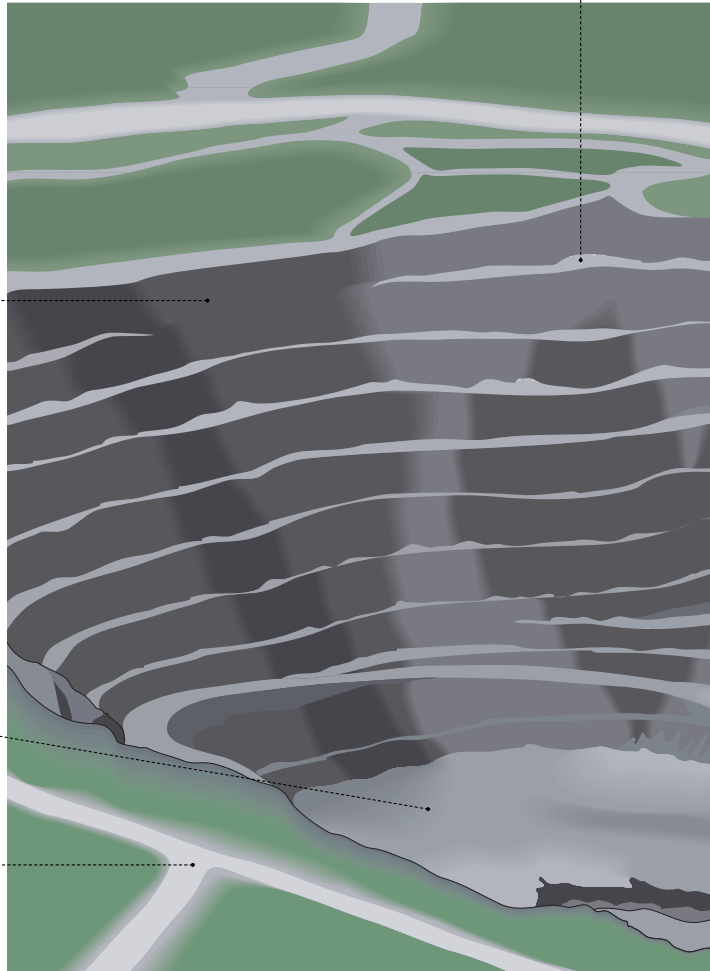
Vertical surface created by dynamiting a deposit to extract its ore.

crater

Depression that forms the bottom of the quarry; it is a result of the extraction of deposits.

haulage road

Access road leading to the quarry; it is used to haul coal to the treatment plant.

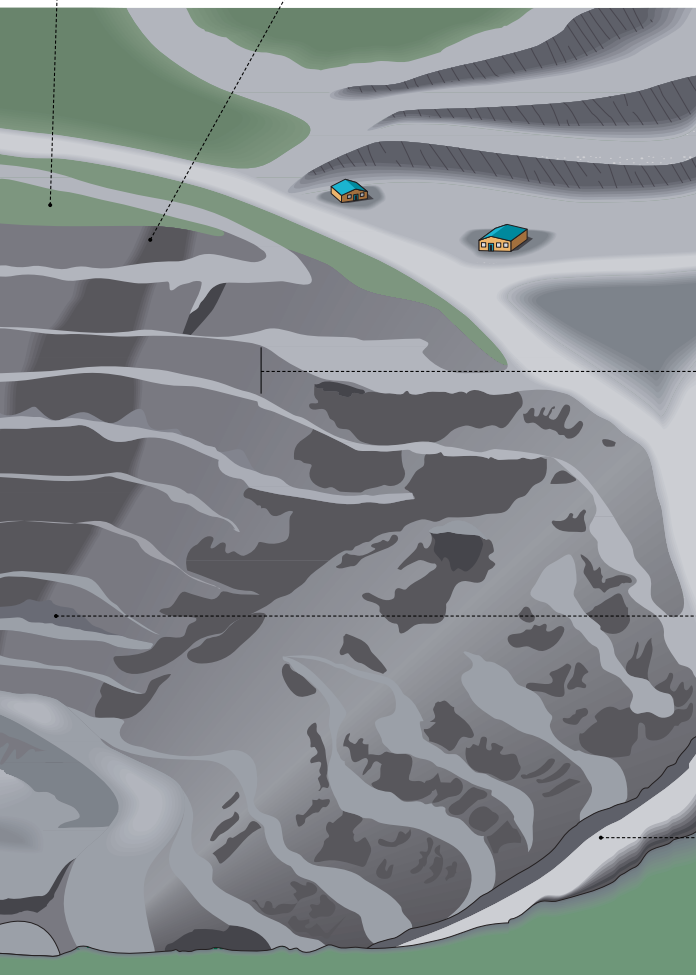


ground surface

The land that covers the deposit.

overburden

Part of the ground that covers the ore beds; it is removed to reach the deposit.



bench height

Vertical distance between the horizontal planes of two benches.

ore

Solid fossil fuel that is black and contains a large amount of carbon.

ramp

Roadway between two benches; it is inclined so that motorized vehicles can remove the ore extracted from the various levels.

coal mine

strip mine

Type of mining that is used especially for large shallow deposits; coal or ore is extracted by digging a trench in the ground surface.

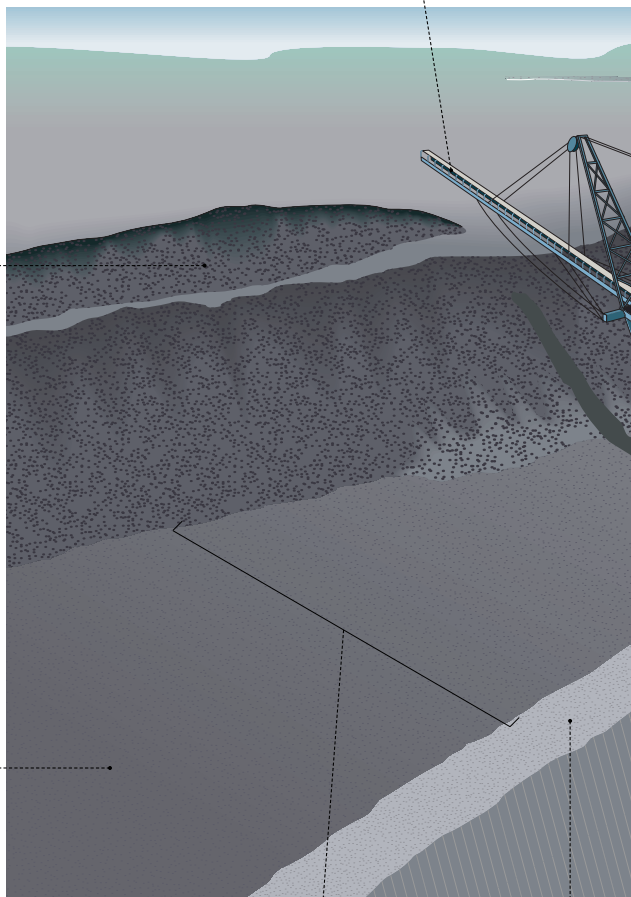
conveyor
Materials-handling device that consists of a conveyor belt (sturdy belt on rollers) that is used to transport coal extracted from the mine.

dump
Pile that is made up of residue from mining operations.

roof
Geologic stratum that covers the ore seam; it is of more recent formation than the ore.

trench
Lengthwise excavation that is made down to the top of the ore layer in order to extract its coal.

face
Part of the quarry that is being excavated and from which ore is progressively extracted.

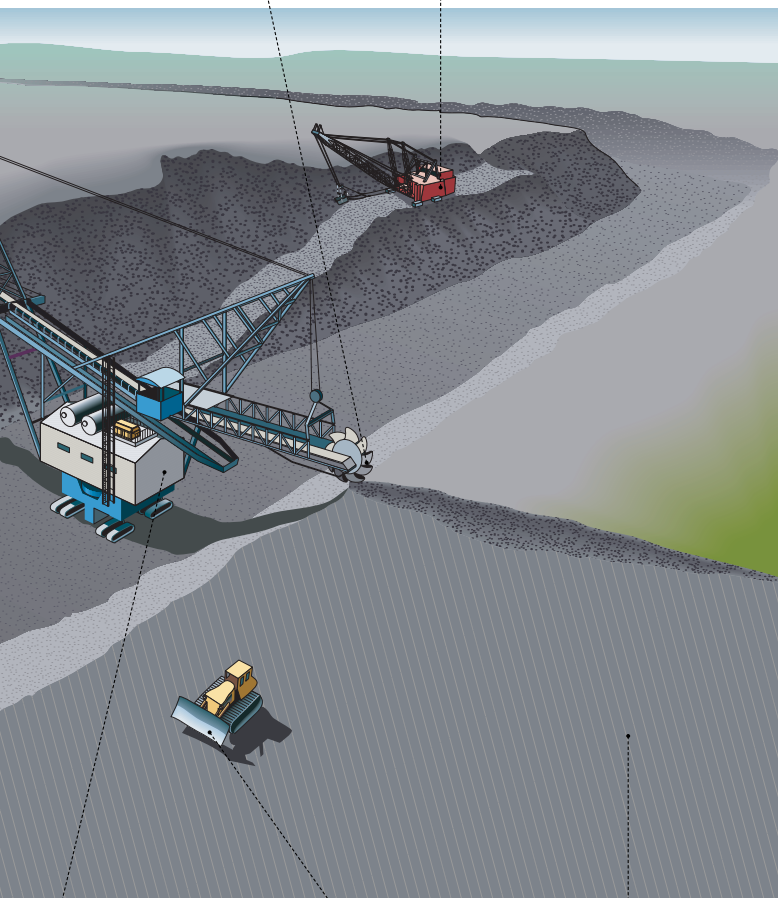


bucket wheel excavator

Earthmover that consists of a wheel fitted with buckets (scoops); it is used to dig into rock to extract materials, which are then dumped onto a conveyor.

mechanical shovel

Earthmover that consists of a movable cab with an articulated arm fitted with a bucket (scoop); it is used for digging and handling loads.



belt loader

Movable materials-handling device that is fitted with an inclined conveyor belt; it is used mainly to raise loads.

bulldozer

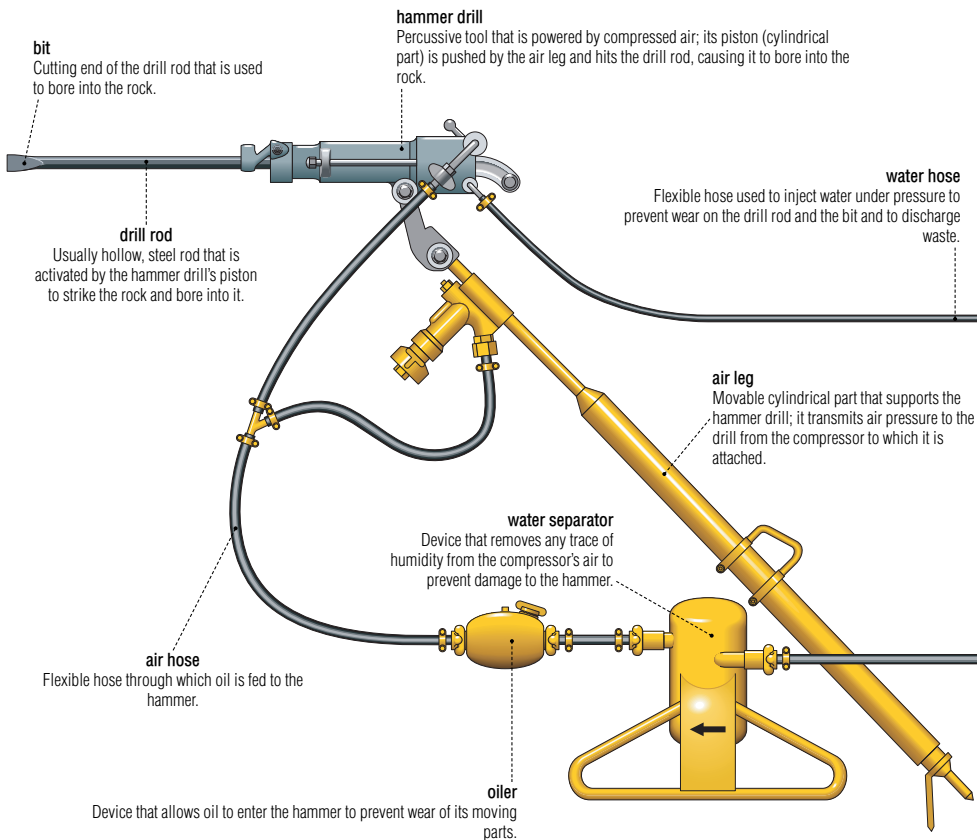
Excavation machine for pushing materials; it is made up of a crawler tractor, a blade and often a ripper.

overburden

Part of the ground that covers the ore beds; it is removed to reach the deposit.

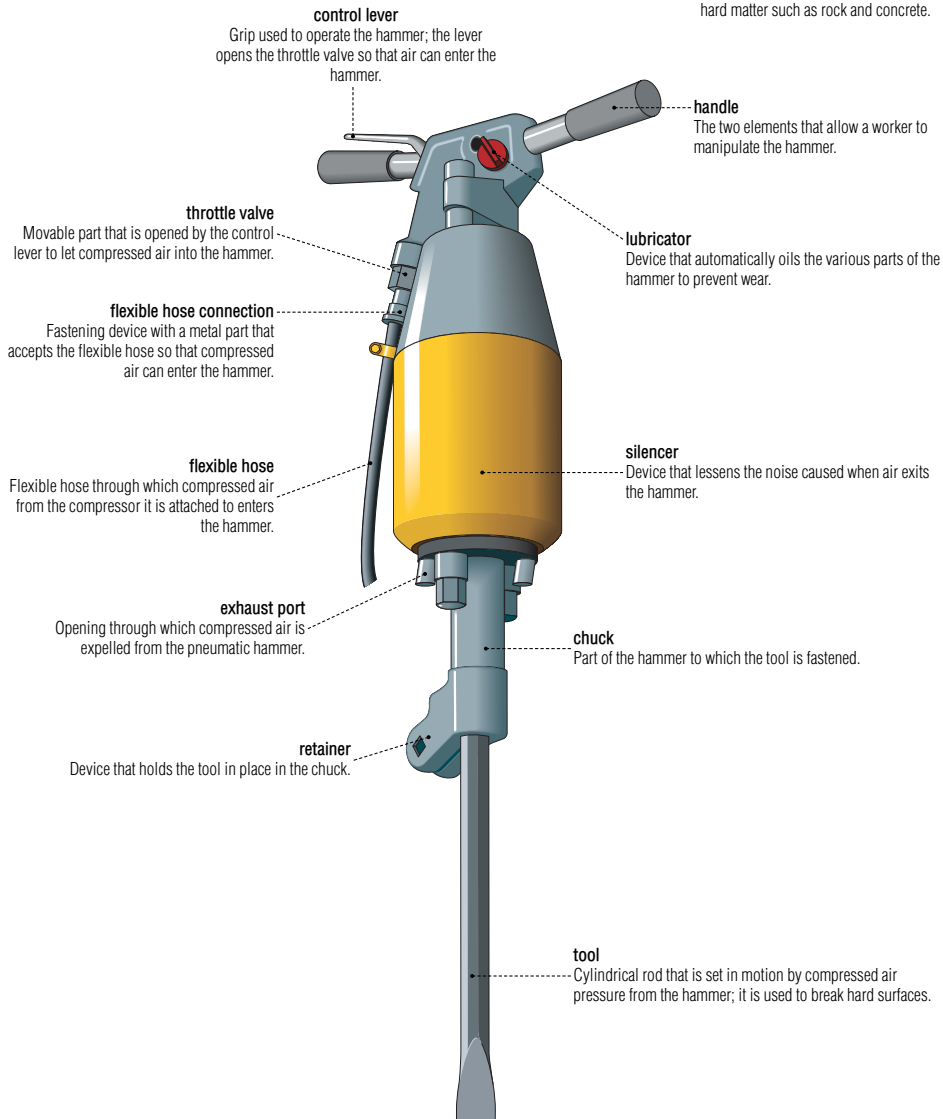
jackleg drill

Percussive tool that is powered by compressed air; it is used to bore holes into hard rock. The air leg makes the job easier for the drill operator.



pneumatic hammer

Percussive tool that is powered by compressed air; with the help of a piston, it activates a tool, which breaks through very hard matter such as rock and concrete.



coal mine

pithead

The surface facilities needed for underground mining (including extraction machinery, storage areas and offices).

main fan

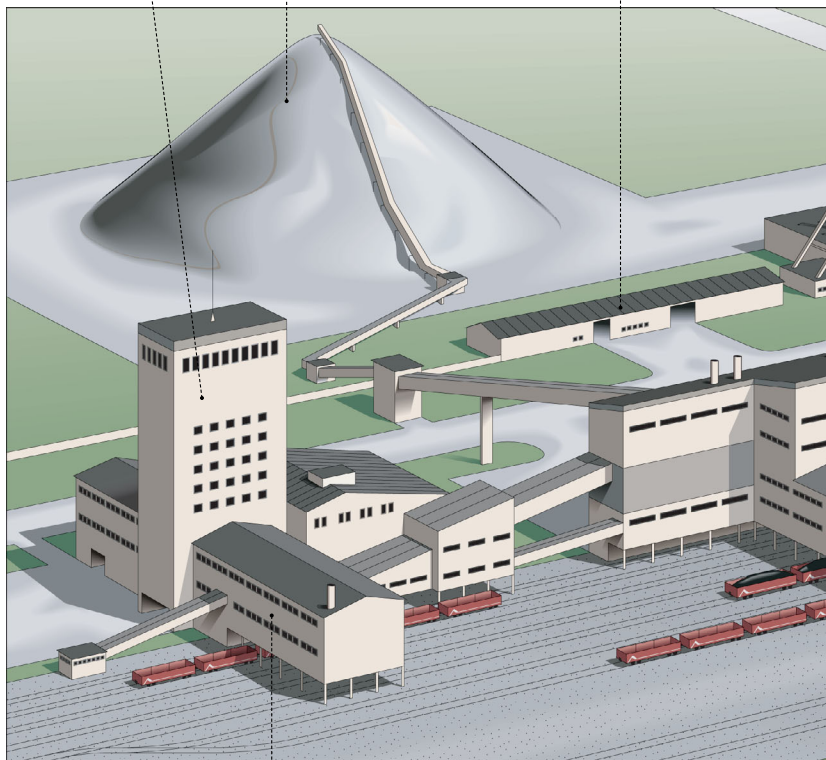
Device that ensures air exchange in the mine; air is drawn through one shaft and exits through another.

dump

Pile that is made up of residue from mining operations.

maintenance shop

Work area where machinery is maintained and repaired.



loading bunker

Reservoir where processed coal is stored before being loaded onto freight cars to be transported by rail to the power plant.

headframe

Opening at the top of the shaft that connects the aboveground facilities (including ventilation fans and hoists) to the underground areas being mined.

miners' changing-room

Area with sanitary facilities (showers, toilets) where miners can go mainly to change their clothes.

conveyor

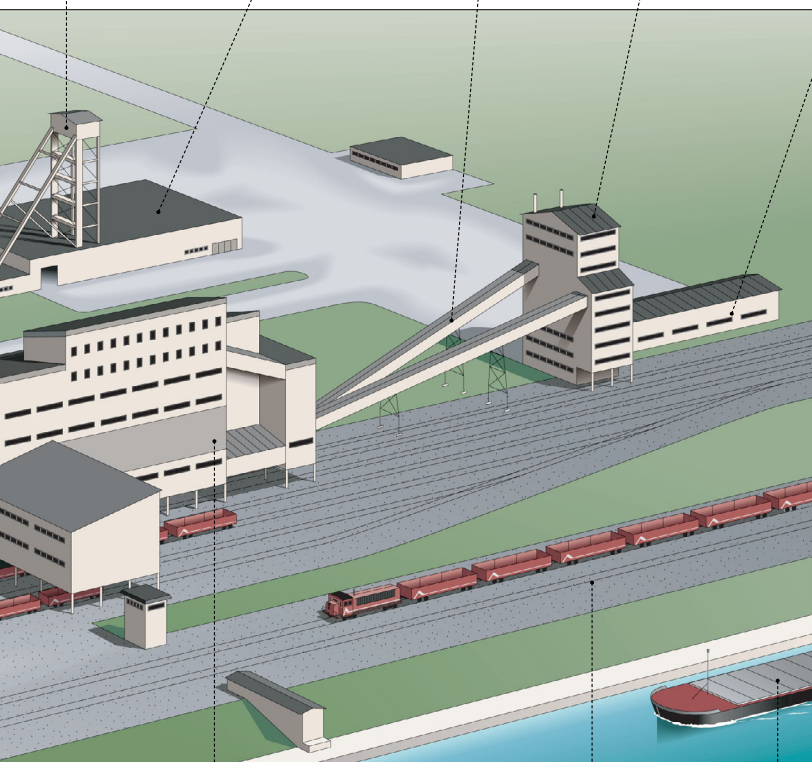
Materials-handling device that consists of a conveyor belt (sturdy belt on rollers); it is used to carry coal to the treatment plant.

winding tower

Building that houses the shaft's hoisting equipment (including motors and hoisting cables); it provides communication between the surface and the mine galleries.

hoist room

Area that houses the hoist (cylinder) on which the hoisting cables are wound; it controls movement of the elevators and skip hoists in the shaft.



treatment plant

Place where all processing activities (including crushing and washing) are carried out to prepare the coal for market.

rail track

The tracks formed of two parallel rails on which trains travel to transport coal.

maritime transport

Means of transport that uses barges to transport coal over water.

coal mine

underground mine

Property in which excavations are carried out to extract deeply embedded (between 30 and 11,500 ft) coal for industrial mining.

headframe

Opening at the top of the shaft that connects the aboveground facilities (including ventilation fans and hoists) to the underground areas being mined.

vertical shaft

Shaft that is dug perpendicular to the surface; it serves various levels and is used mainly to transport personnel, equipment and ore.

elevator

Power lift fitted with a cab that transports coal or miners between the various levels.

pillar

Mass of ore that is left unmined at regular intervals in an excavation (chamber); it provides stability for the upper layers.

room

Cavity that remains after the ore is extracted; pillars support its roof.

chute

Vertical or inclined passageway through which ore, equipment, personnel and air move from one level of the mine to the other.

cross cut

Horizontal passageway that cuts through the ore bed perpendicularly; it provides communication between the passageways and helps to ventilate the mine.

manway

Passageway allowing workers to move around in the mine.

drift

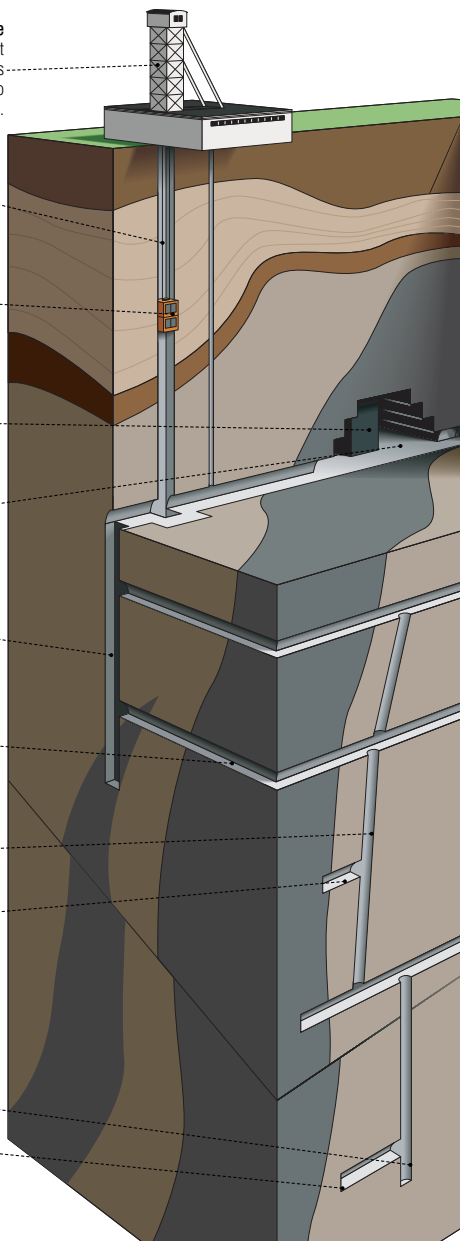
Passageway dug horizontally along the grade line of the ore seam; it can also be dug into the ore vertically.

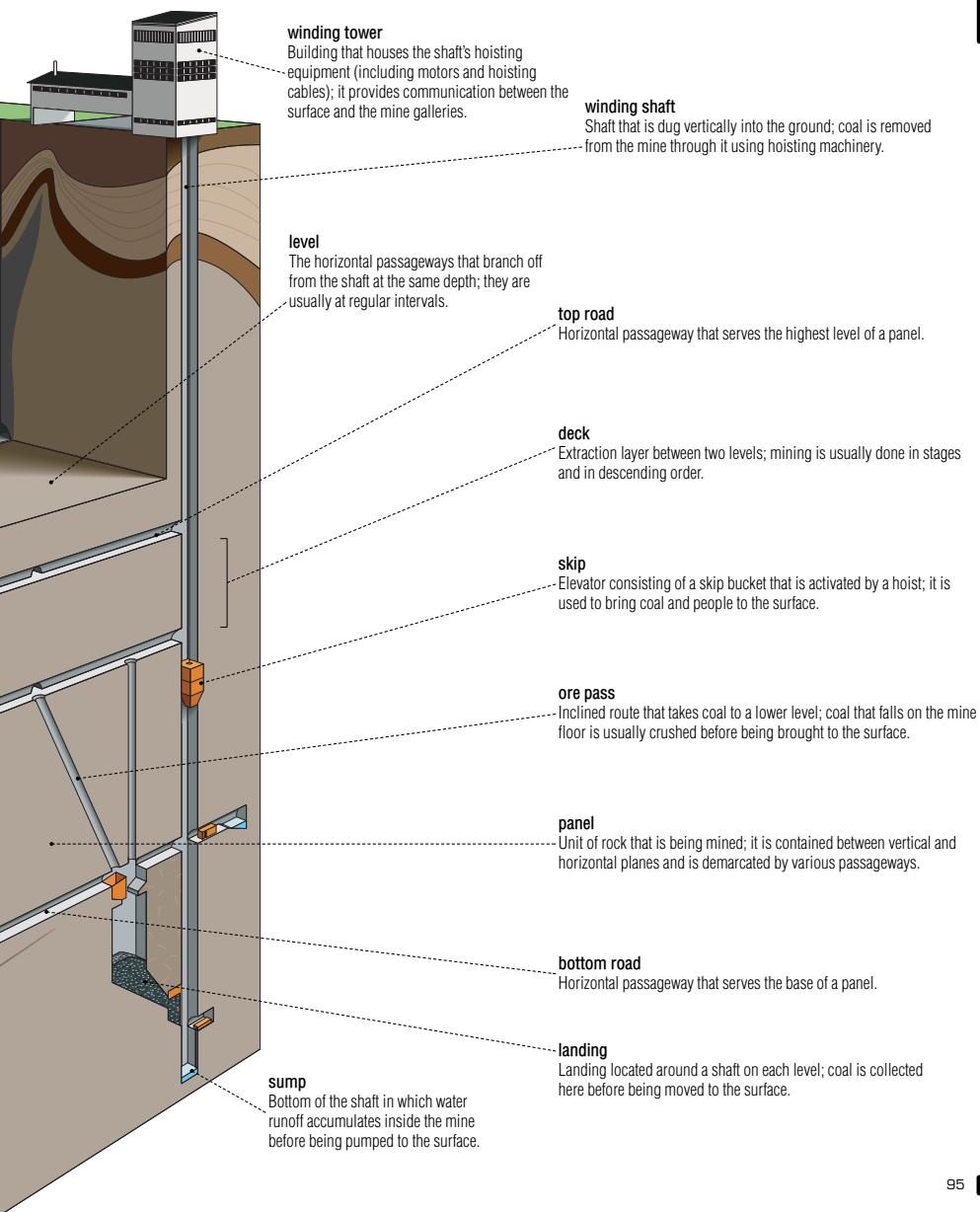
winze

Vertical or inclined passageway that connects two levels; it is dug downward from inside the mine and not from the surface.

face

Opening that is dug laterally into the rock as coal is extracted.





oil

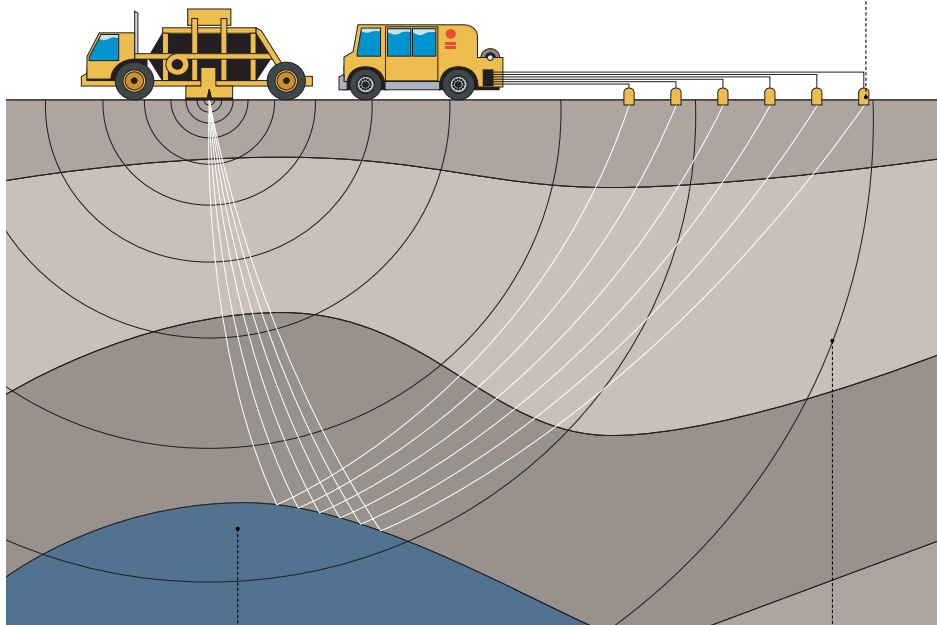
Flammable, relatively viscous oily liquid that is used as an energy source; it is made up of various hydrocarbons resulting from the decomposition of plant life over millions of years.

surface prospecting

Searching for potential oil deposits by studying the structure of the subsoil using a seismograph.

seismographic recording

A recording made using an apparatus called a seismograph; the analysis of its shock wave echoes detects the presence of rock layers that might contain pockets of petroleum or gas.



petroleum trap

Assemblage of porous rocks that contain recoverable oil reserves, which are produced from marine or land deposits.

shock wave

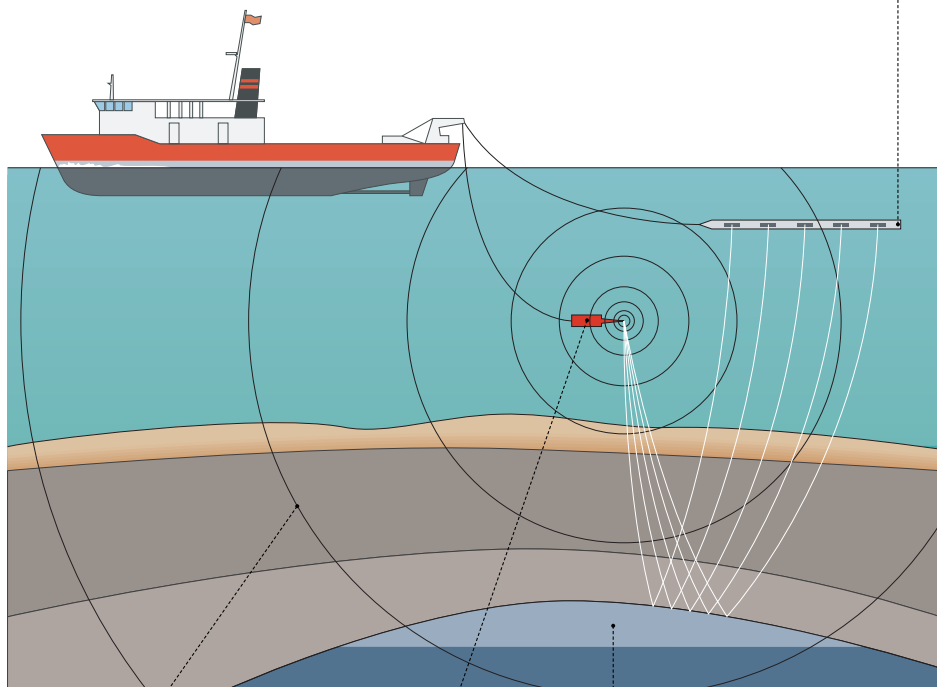
The shock wave spreads and sends back an echo, which varies with the density and depth of the layers of subsoil; with this information, the composition of the subsoil can be determined.

offshore prospecting

Vibrations from an exploding charge in the sea are used to locate oil deposits; prospecting offshore is more difficult than on land.

seismographic recording

A recording made using an apparatus called a seismograph; the analysis of its shock wave echoes detects the presence of rock layers that might contain pockets of petroleum or gas.



shock wave

The shock wave spreads and sends back an echo, which varies with the density and depth of the layers of subsoil; with this information, the composition of the subsoil can be determined.

blasting charge

Quantity of explosives (substances capable of discharging high-temperature gases over a very short time period) that produce shock waves when detonated.

petroleum trap

Assemblage of porous rocks that contain recoverable oil reserves, which are produced from marine or land deposits.

drilling rig

All the drilling machinery and devices that are used to excavate and extract oil from the ground.

derrick
Metal structure erected over an oil well; tools for drilling through rock are raised and lowered through it.

swivel
Piece attached to the lifting hook and the kelly; it is used to introduce mud into the drill pipe to cool and lubricate the bit.

mud injection hose
Flexible hose that introduces the drilling mud into the swivel.

drilling drawworks
Device that consists of a cylinder on which hoisting cables are wound; it is used to lower the drill pipes and bit into the well and to lift them out.

substructure
Metal infrastructure that supports the derrick, engines and auxiliary equipment.

vibrating mudscreen
Perforated vibrating tray that is used to filter mud as it exits the well to remove debris and recycle the mud.

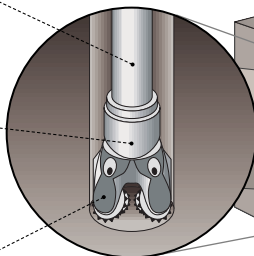
drill pipe
Hollow steel rods that are joined together according to the depth of the excavation; their rotation activates the bit.

drill collar
Heavy steel tube immediately above the bit that applies a certain weight to the bit to help it cut into the rock.

bit
Rotating drill bit with toothed steel or diamond wheels; it bores into rock to break it up and drill a hole.

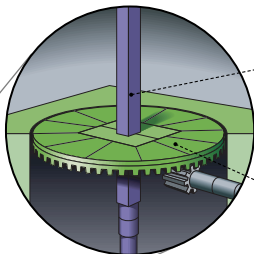
oil
Flammable, relatively viscous oily liquid that is used as an energy source; it is made up of various hydrocarbons resulting from the decomposition of plant life over millions of years.

gas
Mixture of gaseous hydrocarbons (mainly methane) that are found in underground deposits, which sometimes also contain crude oil; it is used mainly as a fuel.



rotary system

Drilling device in which a kelly is attached to a rotary table; with the help of powerful motors, it transmits the rotative movement to the kellys.



kelly

Special square rod that is screwed to the top of the drill pipes and driven by the rotary table.

rotary table

Circular table that is moved by powerful motors; it transmits its rotative movement to the drill pipes by means of the kelly.

engine

Device converting the combustion of fuel and air into mechanical energy.

mud pump

Device that circulates the mud in the drilling rig.

mud pit

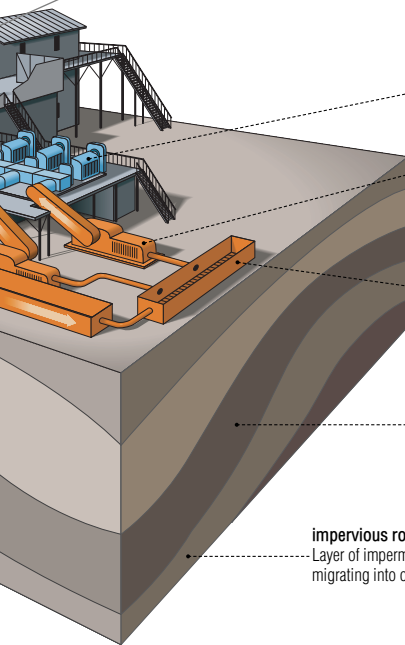
Basin that contains mud (a mixture of water, clay and chemical products) used mainly to cool and lubricate the bit and to remove debris.

anticline

Geologic stratum that results from the convex folding of rock formations; large pools of oil often accumulate in it.

impervious rock

Layer of impermeable rock that covers and protects the oil deposit; it prevents hydrocarbons from migrating into other rocks.



production platform

Facility used to extract underwater oil deposits; the separation and treatment of hydrocarbons are mainly done here.

derrick
Metal structure erected over an oil well; tools for drilling through rock are raised and lowered through it.

oil processing area
Area where crude oil is pretreated at the head of the well.

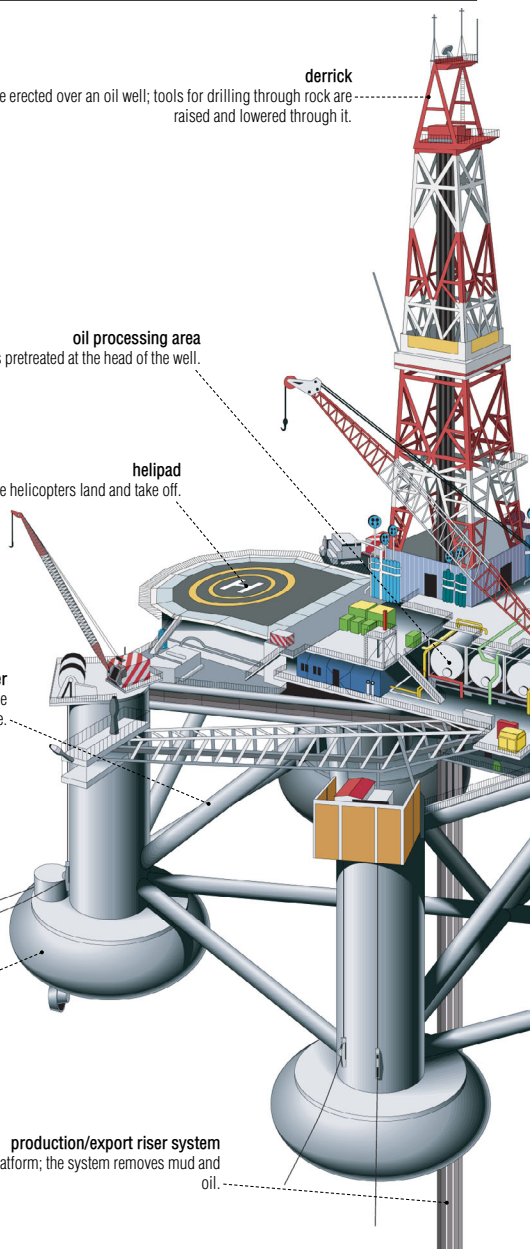
helipad
Site where helicopters land and take off.

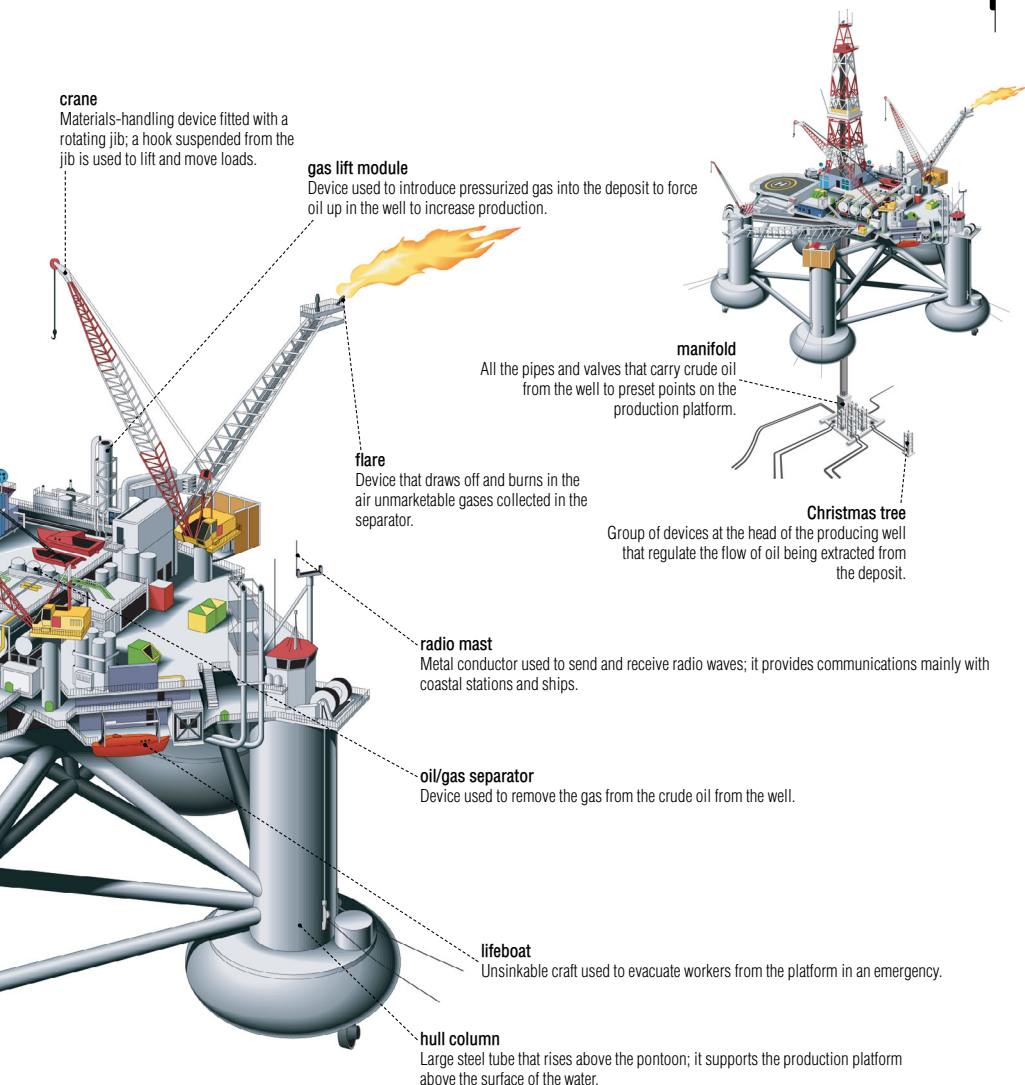
tubular member
Steel tube that connects the platform's various hull columns to reinforce the structure.

anchor wires
They anchor the pontoon securely to the ocean floor to ensure the stability of the platform.

pontoon
Submerged floating caisson at the base of the hull column; seawater or oil are stored here to stabilize the platform.

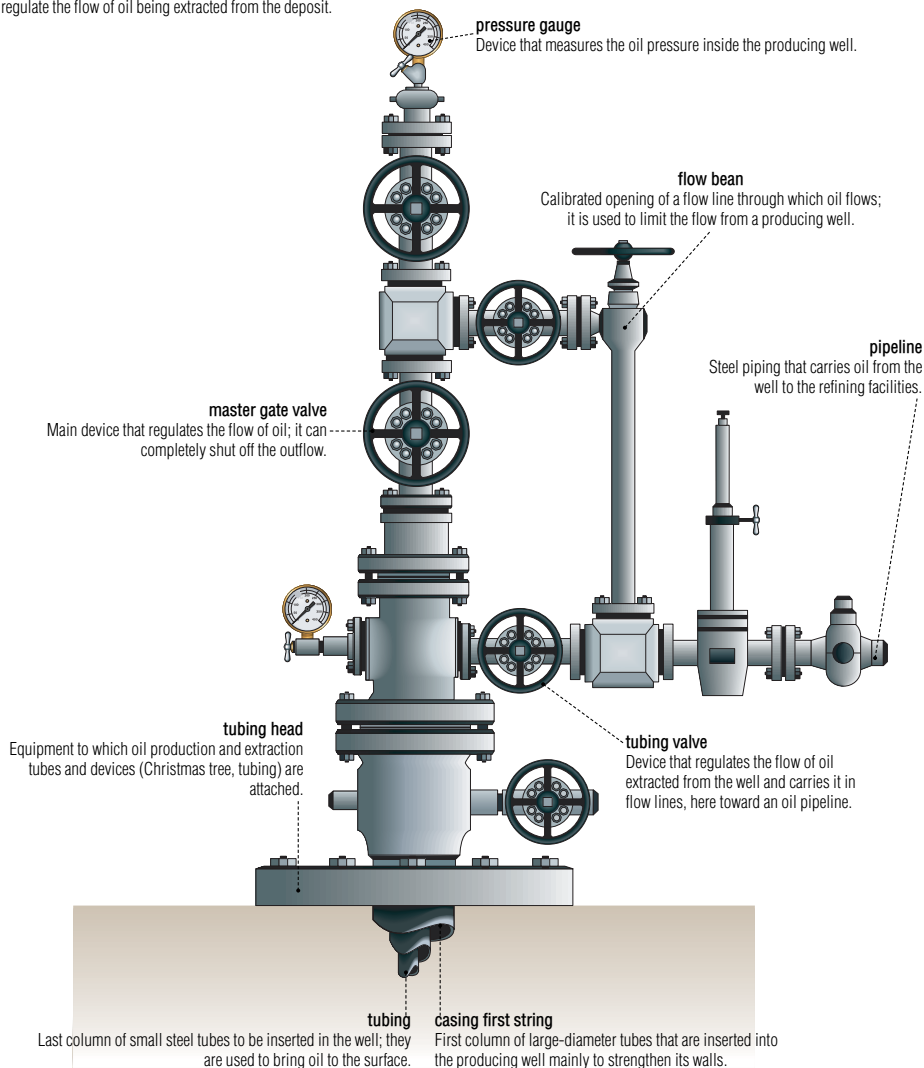
production/export riser system
Vertical steel tubes that link the wellhead and the drilling platform; the system removes mud and oil.





Christmas tree

Group of devices at the head of the producing well that regulate the flow of oil being extracted from the deposit.



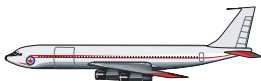
refinery products

Refining of crude oil yields hundreds of useful products.



petrochemicals

Chemical products derived from petroleum-based products; they are found in fertilizers, detergents, plastics and other products.



jet fuel

Aviation fuel used to power jet engines.



gasoline

Motor fuel that is used mainly by the automotive industry to power internal combustion engines.



kerosene

Fuel used for lighting and heating.



stove oil

Fuel used mainly in home furnaces.



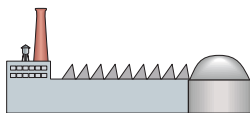
diesel oil

Fuel used mainly by the transportation industry to power diesel engines.



heating oil

Fuel used in home heating systems and industrial installations requiring little energy.



bunker oil

Fuel used in high-powered heating systems and electric power plants; it is also used to power large diesel engines.



greases

Pasty substances made of mineral oil and soap; they are used by industry to lubricate mechanical parts.



lubricating oils

Viscous substances that are used mainly to reduce friction between two moving surfaces.



paraffins

Water-insoluble substances that have various uses; these include candle making, packaging and pharmaceutical products.



asphalt

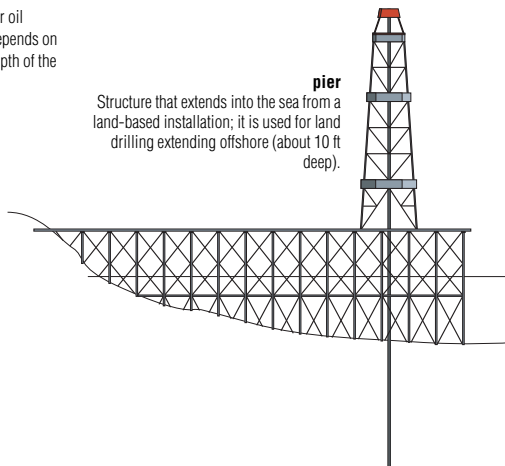
Mixture of bitumen and other substances that is used mainly to pave roads.

offshore drilling

There are various types of underwater oil drilling installations; the one used depends on the location of the deposit and the depth of the water.

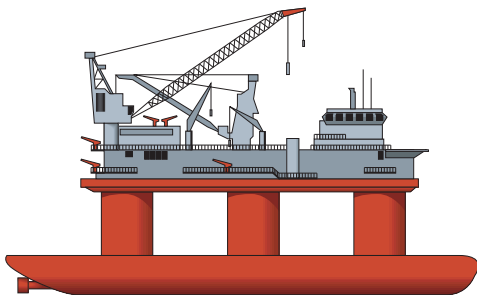
pier

Structure that extends into the sea from a land-based installation; it is used for land drilling extending offshore (about 10 ft deep).



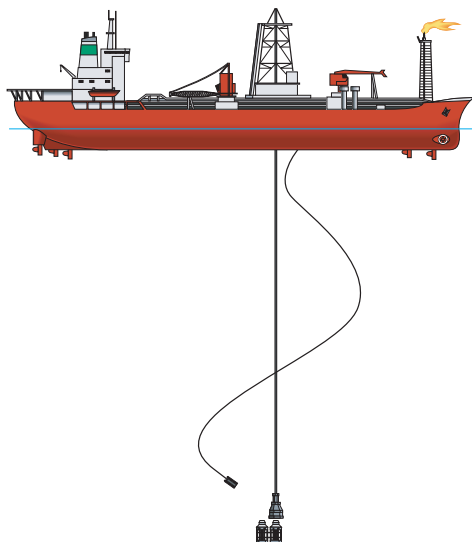
emergency support vessel

Floating structure equipped with specialized equipment; it is used for rescue operations on drilling rigs.



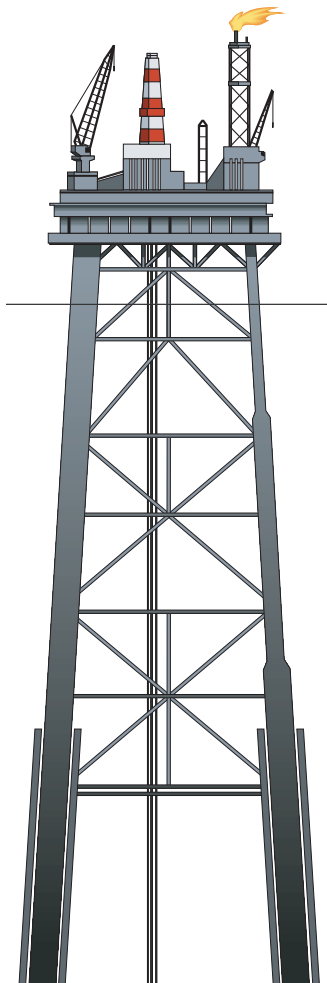
drill ship

Ship for drilling for oil in deep water (3,300 ft and more); it is more mobile but less stable than a semisubmersible or jack-up platform.



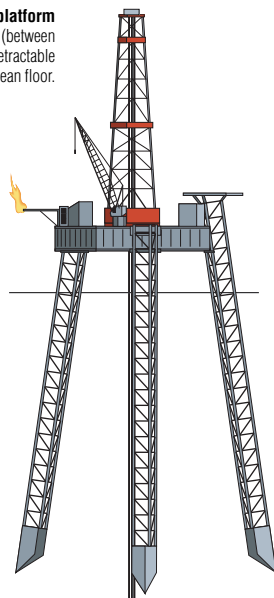
fixed platform

Structure that is mainly used at moderate depths (up to 1,300 ft); it rests on the seabed on pillars buried deep in the sea floor.



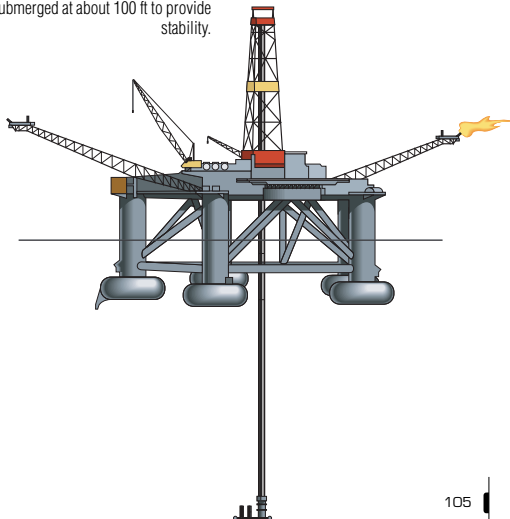
jack-up platform

Movable structure that is used in shallow water (between 65 and 330 ft); it is raised above sea level on retractable pillars resting on the ocean floor.



semisubmersible platform

Movable structure that is anchored to the seabed and used at depths of 350 to 1,650 ft; it is mounted on pontoons submerged at about 100 ft to provide stability.



crude-oil pipeline

Continuous underground, aboveground or underwater oil pipeline that can be thousands of miles long (the Trans-Siberian pipeline is 3,800 mi long).

derrick
Metal structure erected over an oil well; tools for drilling through rock are raised and lowered through it.

offshore well
Hole dug in the sea floor to extract oil deposits; equipment such as the Christmas tree rests on the seabed.

Christmas tree
Group of devices at the head of the producing well that regulate the flow of oil being extracted from the deposit.

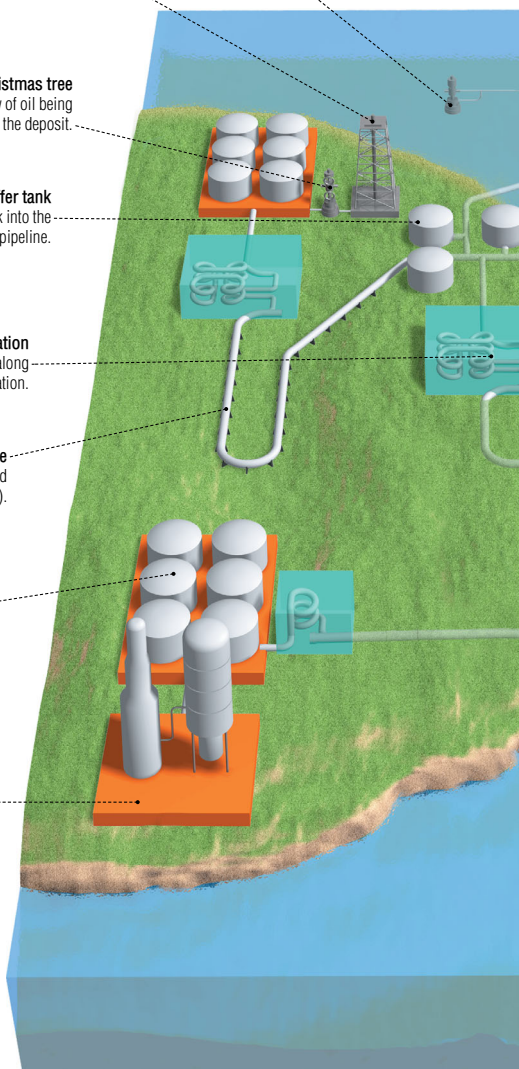
buffer tank
Large container that stores crude oil temporarily before it is pumped back into the pipeline.

central pumping station
Powerful pumping station that maintains the pressure required to move the oil along the pipeline to the next pumping station.

aboveground pipeline
Oil pipeline that rests on aboveground supports to protect it from frozen ground (e.g., the Alaska pipeline).

terminal
Facility located at the end of the pipeline that includes equipment such as tanks and pumps; it receives the crude oil before it is refined.

refinery
Plant in which crude oil is refined (separated and scrubbed) to obtain a broad range of finished products (including motor fuel and oils).



production platform

Facility used to extract underwater oil deposits; the separation and treatment of hydrocarbons are mainly done here.

submarine pipeline

Pipeline installed on the seabed that carries oil extracted from an underwater deposit to shore.

pumping station

Installation located at regular intervals along the pipeline that is fitted with motorized pumps; it ensures that the oil flows inside the pipeline.

tank farm

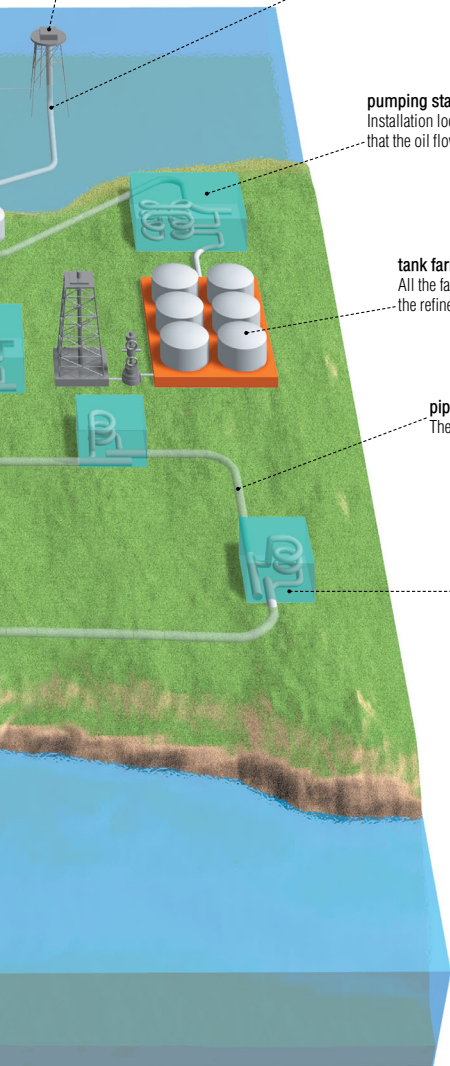
All the facilities (such as tanks and pumps) that store large quantities of crude oil to be sent later to the refinery.

pipeline

The steel piping that carries oil from one treatment facility to another.

intermediate booster station

Booster station that reinforces the action of the central station and maintains the flow of oil in the pipeline network.

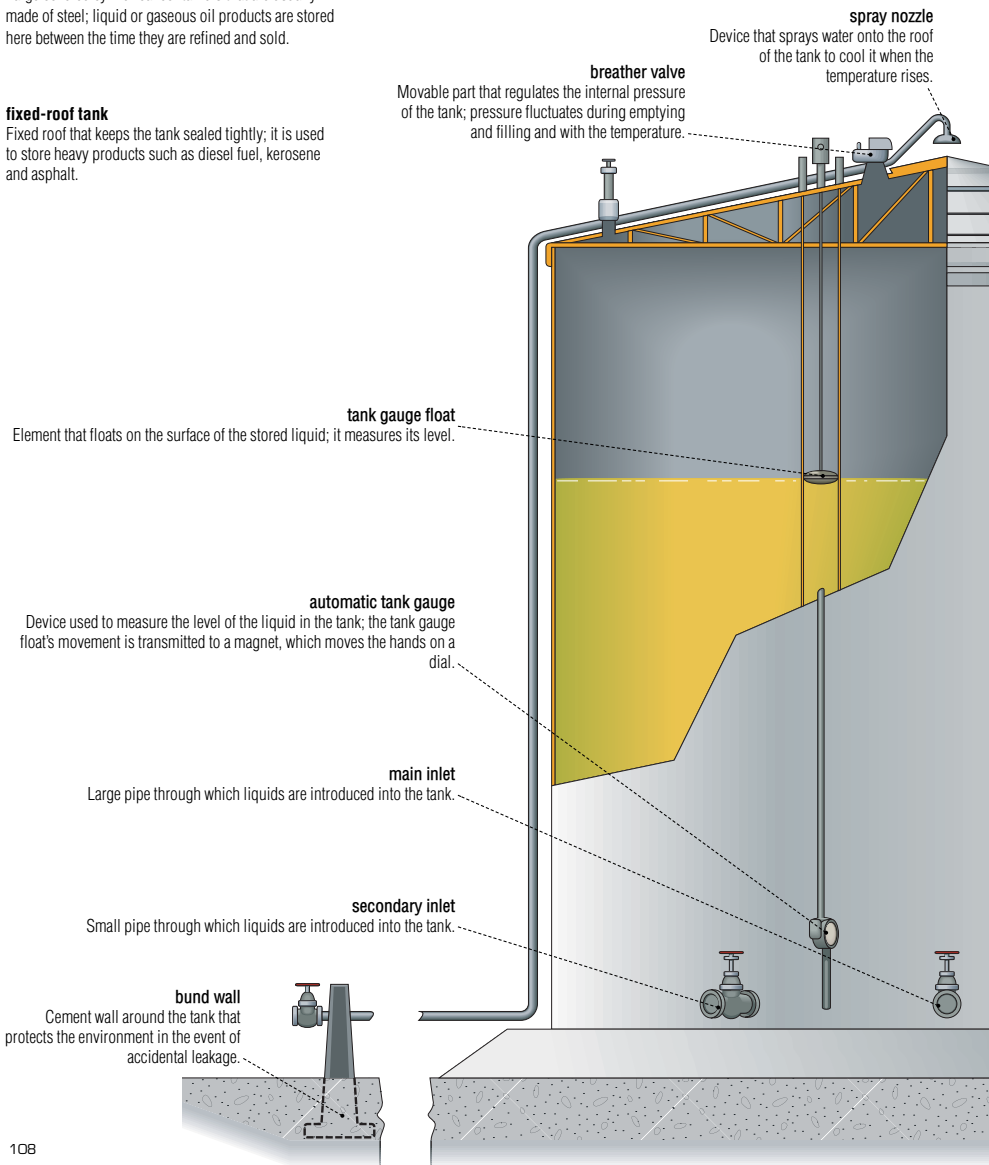


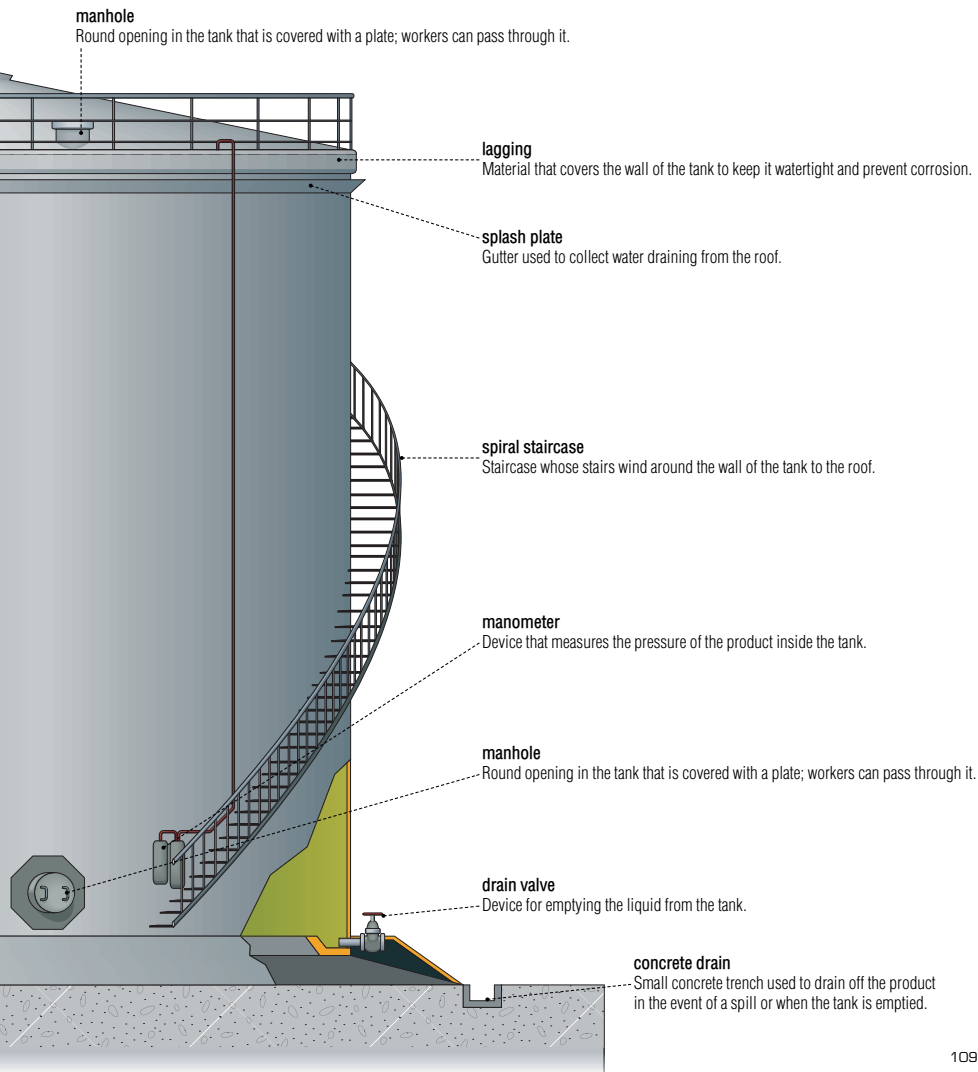
tanks

Large covered cylindrical containers that are usually made of steel; liquid or gaseous oil products are stored here between the time they are refined and sold.

fixed-roof tank

Fixed roof that keeps the tank sealed tightly; it is used to store heavy products such as diesel fuel, kerosene and asphalt.





floating-roof tank

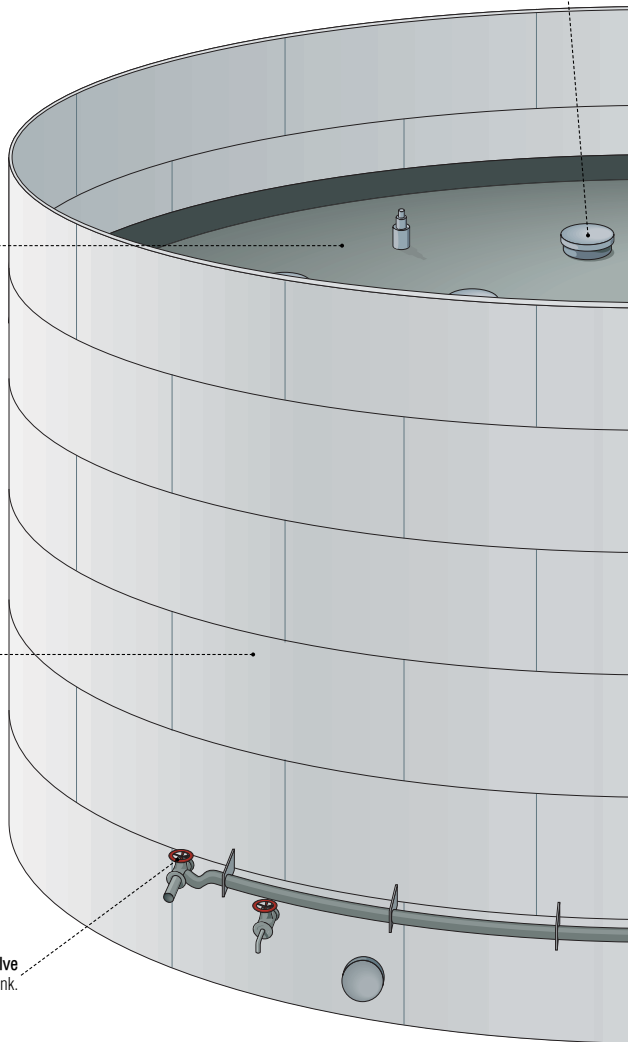
Tank whose floating roof rests directly on the surface of the liquid to minimize the evaporation of hydrocarbons; it is used to store the most volatile products.

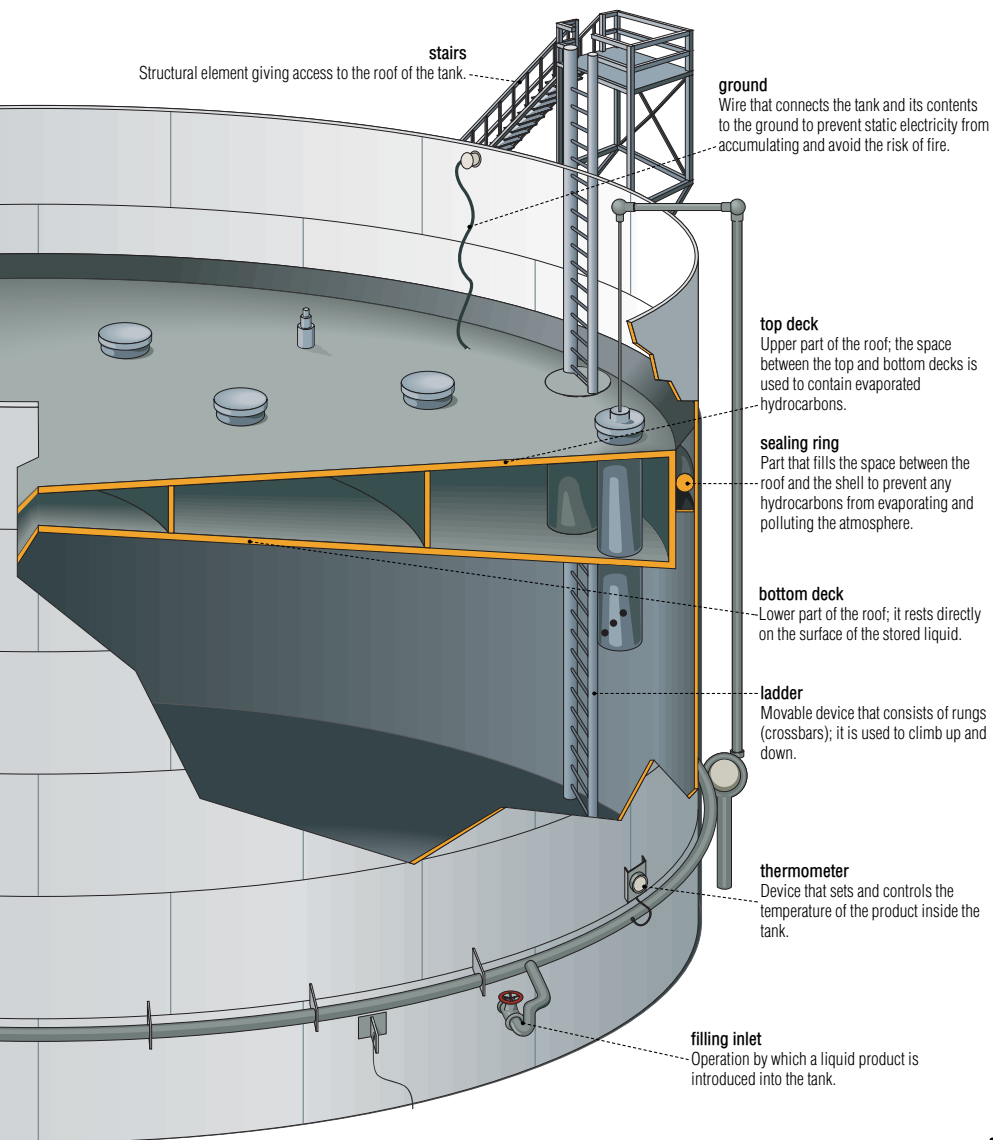
manhole
Round opening in the tank that is covered with a plate; workers can pass through it.

floating roof
Metal cover that rests on the surface of the stored liquid; it fluctuates with the level of the fluid and slides vertically inside the shell.

shell
Vertical cylindrical wall of the tank.

drain valve
Device for emptying the liquid from the tank.





hydroelectric complex

The reservoir structures and installations that use water power to produce electricity.

spillway

Channel that discharges excess water from the reservoir during flooding to avoid submerging the dam.

spillway gate

Movable vertical panel; it is opened to allow the reservoir's overflow to pass through.

crest of spillway

Cement crest over which the reservoir's overflow discharges when the spillway gates are opened.

training wall

Wall that separates the spillway chutes; it is used to direct the water flow.

spillway chute

Inclined surface along which discharged water flows out.

diversion tunnel

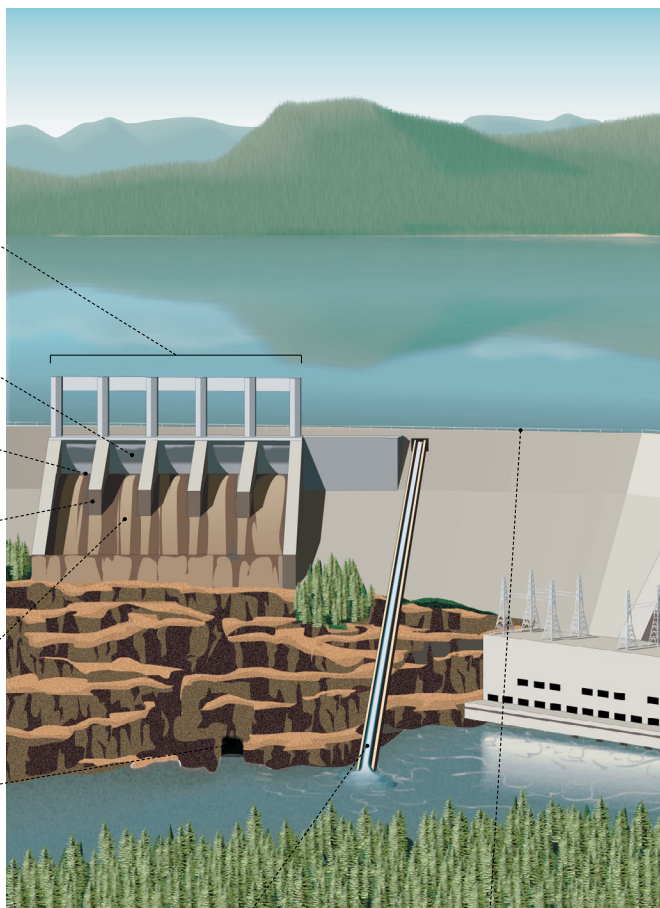
Underground conduit that diverts water during construction.

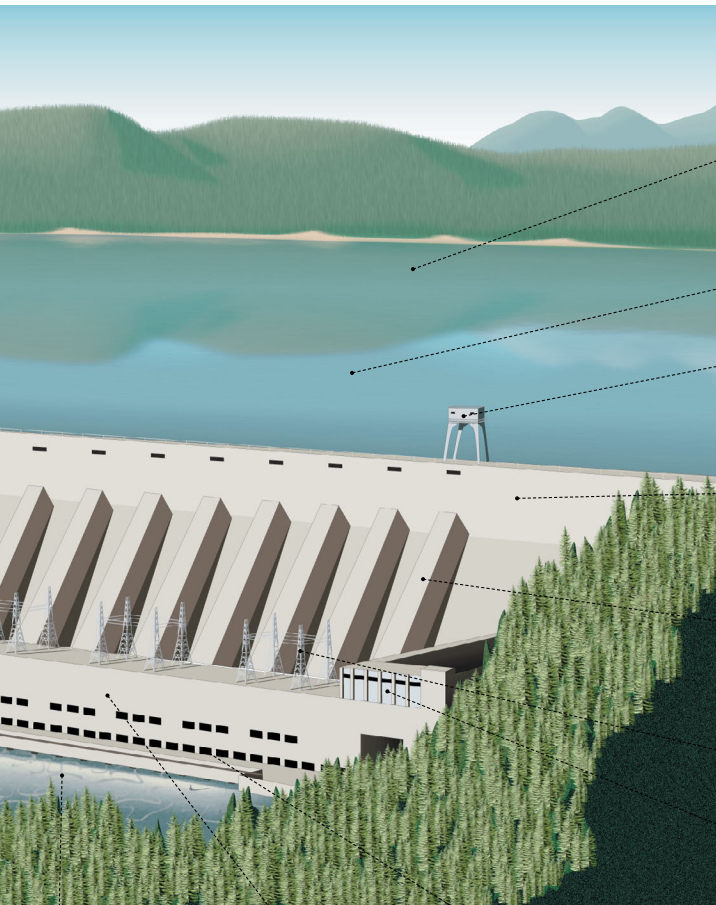
log chute

Structure that allows floating wood to travel from upstream to downstream of the dam.

top of dam

Upper part of the dam; it rises above the water level of the reservoir by several yards.



**reservoir**

Basin formed by the construction of a dam; it holds back a very large volume of water so that the flow rate can be controlled.

headbay

Part of the reservoir immediately in front of the dam where the current originates.

gantry crane

Hoisting device in the form of a bridge; it moves along rails.

dam

Barrier built across a watercourse in order to build up a supply of water for use as an energy source.

penstock

Channel that carries water under pressure to the power plant's turbines.

bushing

Device that allows the conductor to pass through the wall of the transformer and separates it from the latter.

control room

Area that contains the various control and monitoring devices required for the production of electricity.

afterbay

Area of the watercourse where water is discharged after passing through the turbines.

power plant

Plant that uses an energy source, here water, and converts it into electricity.

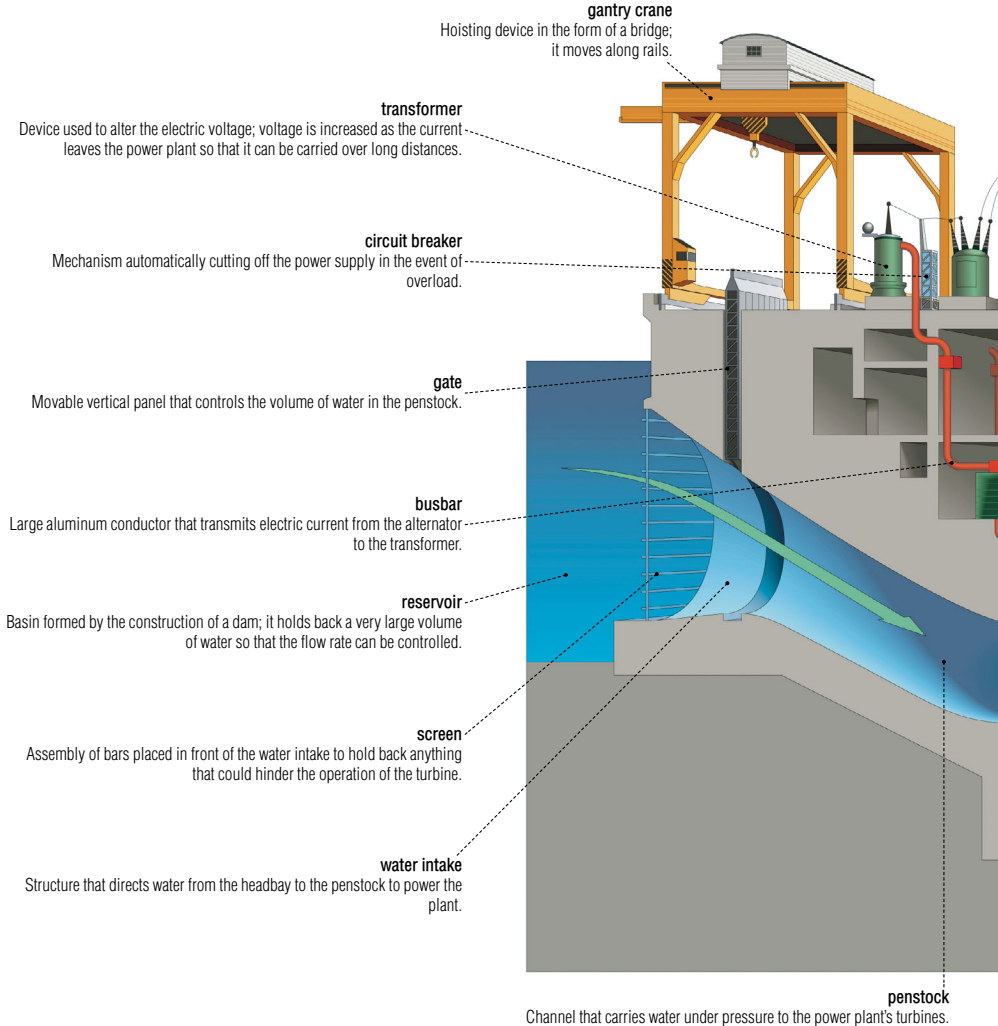
machine hall

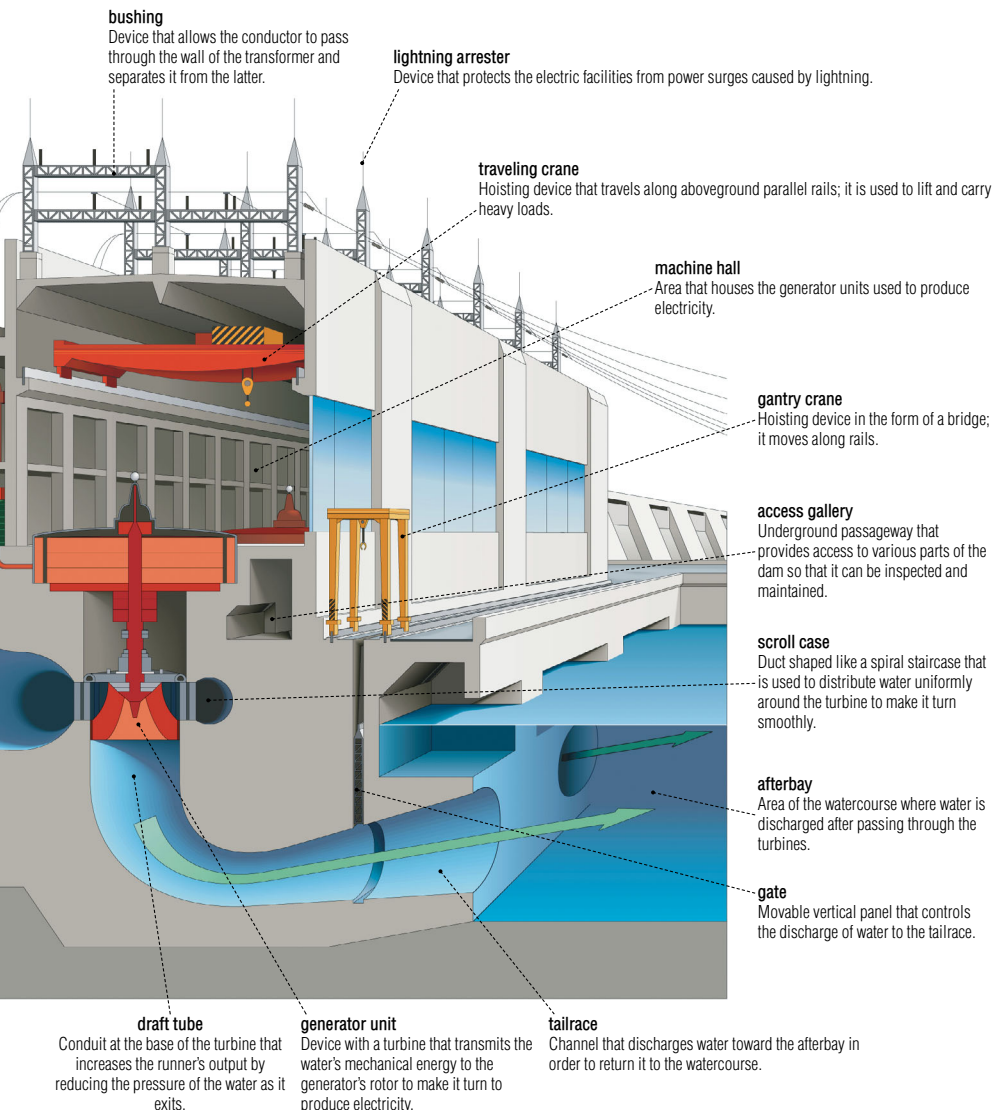
Area that houses the generator units used to produce electricity.

hydroelectric complex

cross section of a hydroelectric power plant

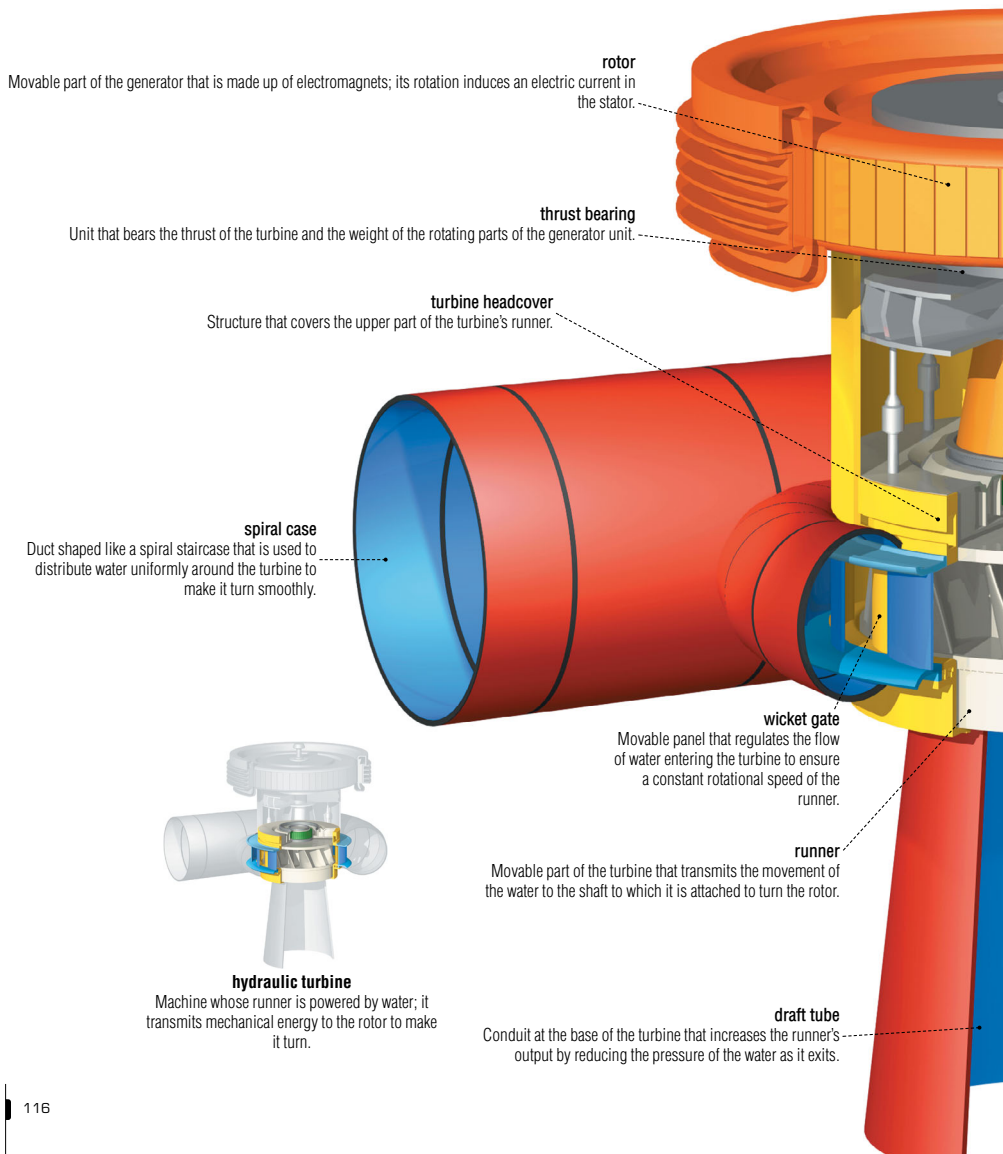
Hydroelectric power plant: plant that produces electricity from energy generated by flowing water.

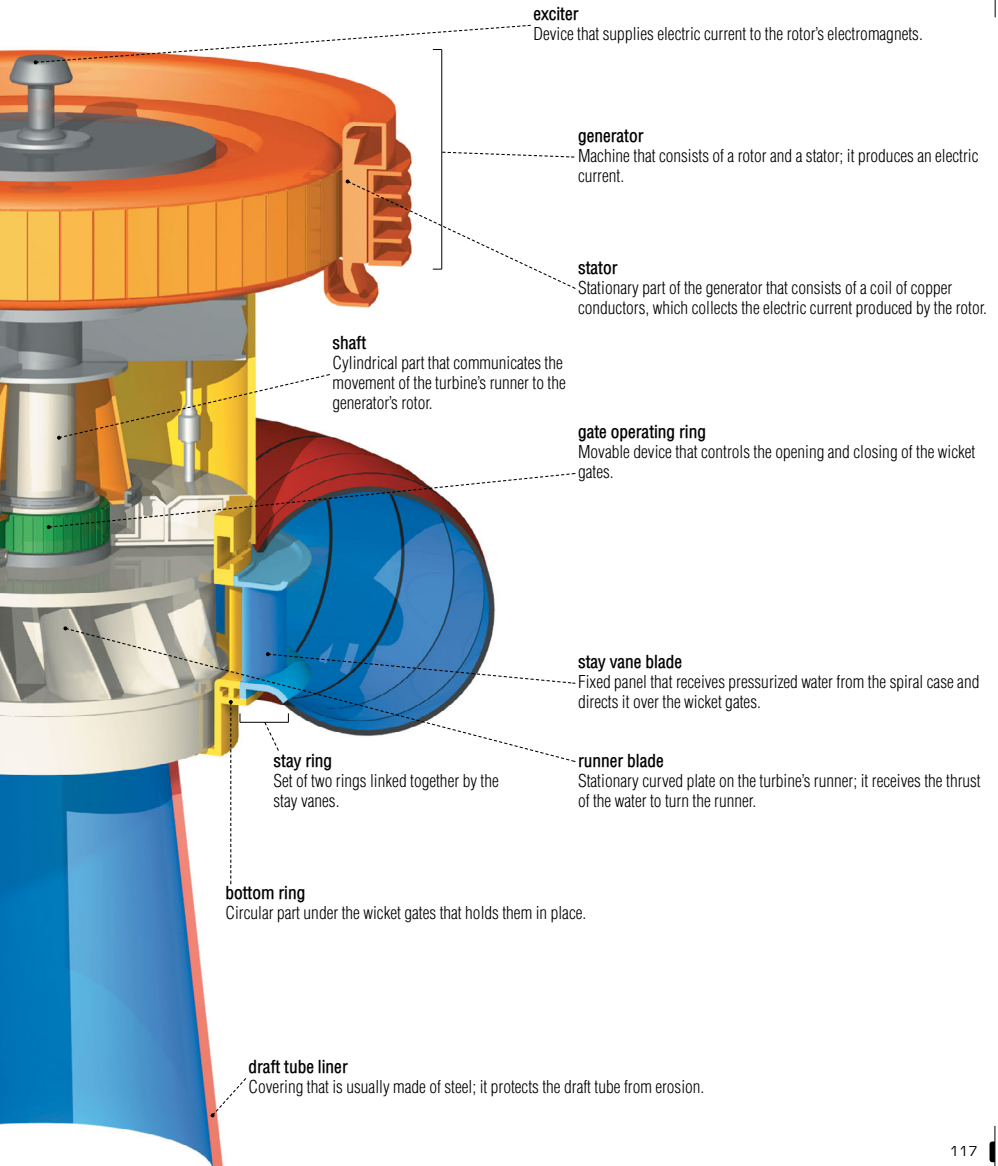




generator unit

Device with a turbine that transmits the water's mechanical energy to the generator's rotor to make it turn to produce electricity.





generator unit

runners

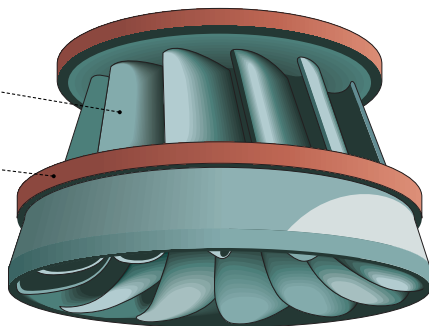
Movable parts of the turbine that transmit the movement of the water to the shaft to which they are attached to turn the rotor.

Francis runner

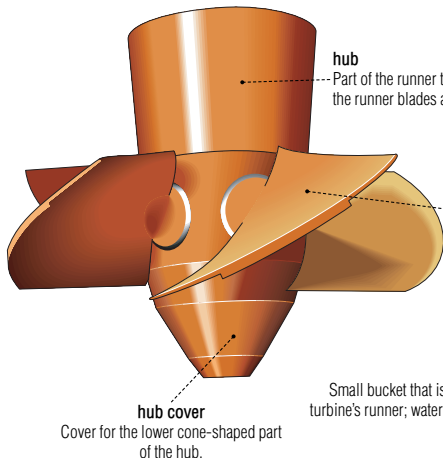
Most common type of runner that is suited to average heights of water (usually between 100 and 1,000 ft).

blade
Stationary curved plate on the turbine's runner; it receives the thrust of the water to turn the runner.

ring
Circular part that supports the wicket gates.

**Kaplan runner**

Type of runner that is suited to low heights of water (usually between 30 and 200 ft) and variable flow rates.



hub
Part of the runner that holds the shaft; the runner blades are attached to it.

runner blade
Movable part that is fixed to the hub of the runner; it turns through the action of water power on it.

hub cover

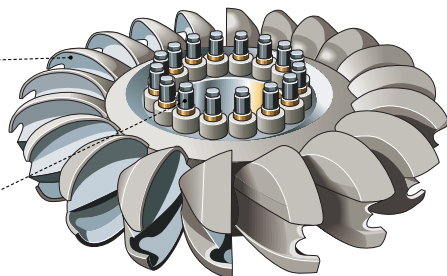
Cover for the lower cone-shaped part of the hub.

Pelton runner

Type of runner that is suited to high water sources (usually over 1,000 ft) and low flow rates.

bucket
Small bucket that is attached to the turbine's runner; water enters it to turn the wheel.

coupling bolt
Element made up of a nut and a bolt that attaches the runner to the shaft plate to transmit its movement to the runner.

**bucket ring**

Disk housing all the turbine buckets that activates the runner.



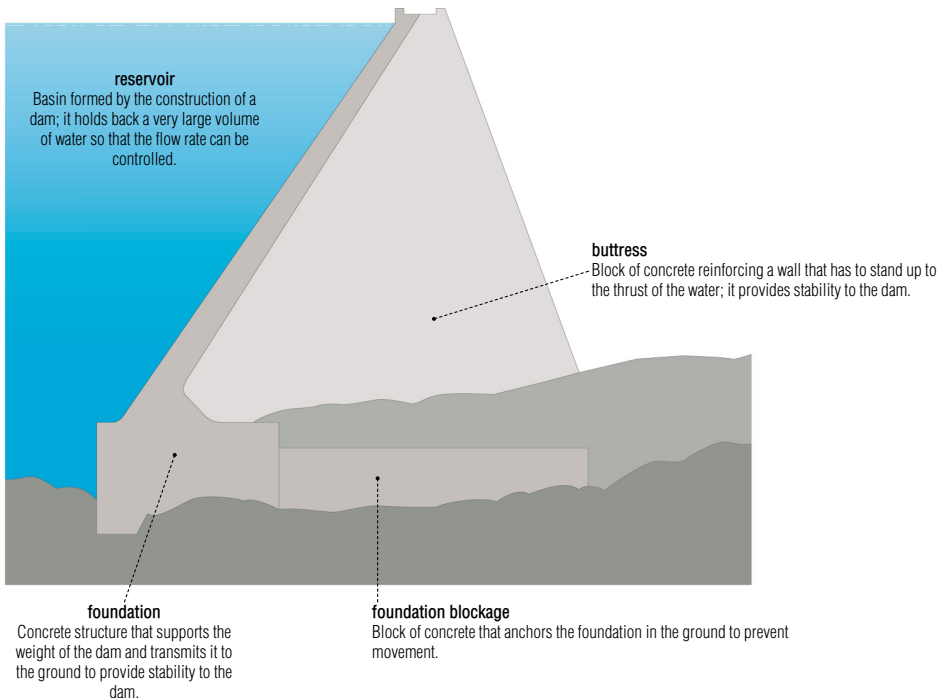
There are masonry dams, concrete dams and embankment dams; the choice depends on criteria such as the nature of the ground, the shape of the valley and the materials available.

buttress dam

Used mainly in wide valleys, it consists of an impermeable wall, which is shored up by a series of buttresses to transmit the thrust of the water to the foundation.



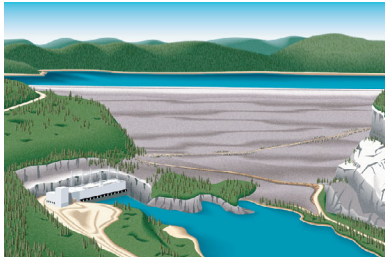
cross section of a buttress dam



examples of dams

embankment dam

Formed of mounds of earth or rocks, it is used mainly when the subsoil does not allow for construction of a concrete dam.

**clay core**

Central portion of the dam that is usually made of compact clay to make it watertight.

top of dam

Upper part of the dam; it rises above the water level of the reservoir by several yards.

cross section of an embankment dam

wave wall
Small wall located at the top of the upstream shoulder that protects the dam against waves.

reservoir

Basin formed by the construction of a dam; it holds back a very large volume of water so that the flow rate can be controlled.

pitching

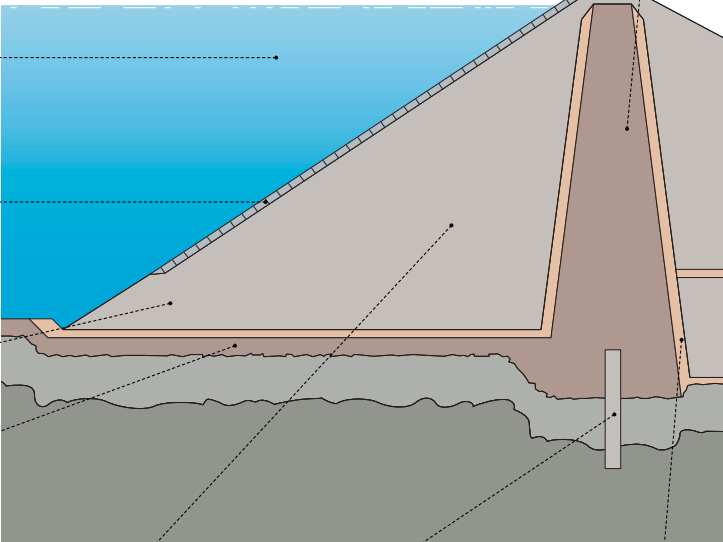
Layer of rock or concrete blocks that covers the upstream shoulder to prevent erosion.

upstream toe

Area where the upstream shoulder and the foundation of the dam meet.

upstream blanket

Impermeable layer that consists of compact clay; it rests on the bottom of the dam to prevent infiltration.

**upstream shoulder**

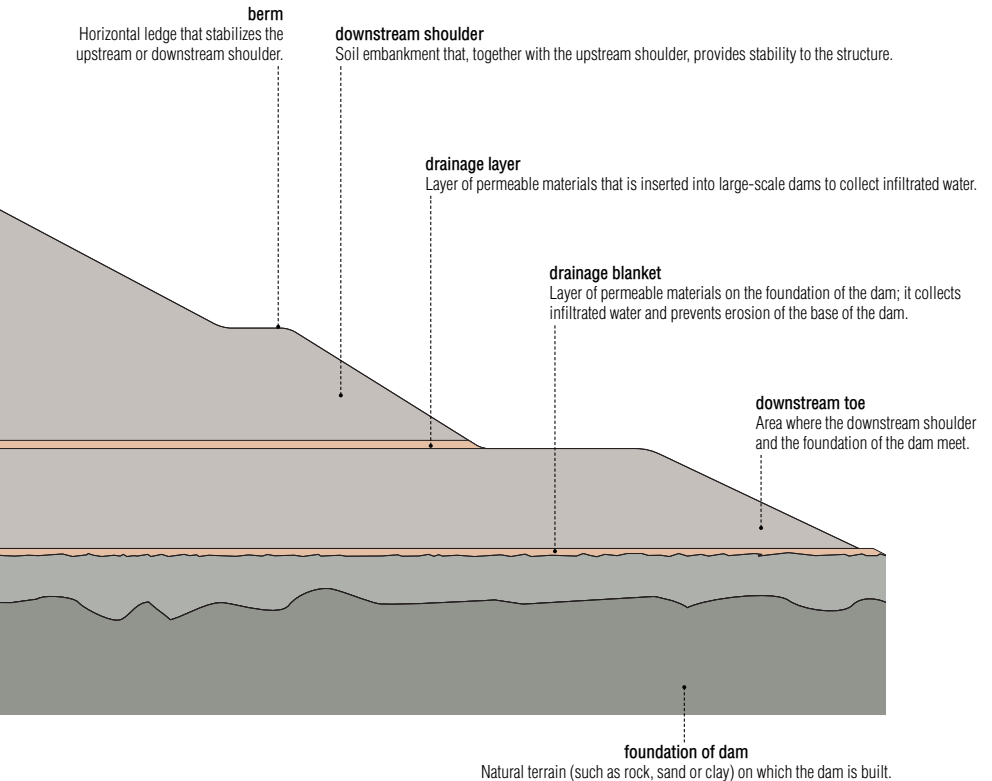
Soil embankment located on the reservoir side; its mass provides stability to the dam.

cut-off trench

Area of the foundation of the dam that is connected to the core; it contains impermeable materials to limit leakage and infiltration under the dam.

sand

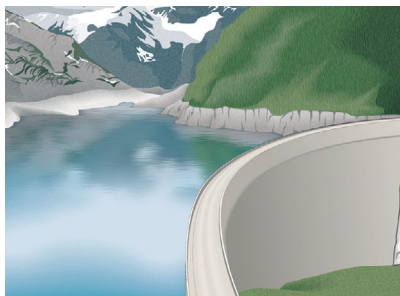
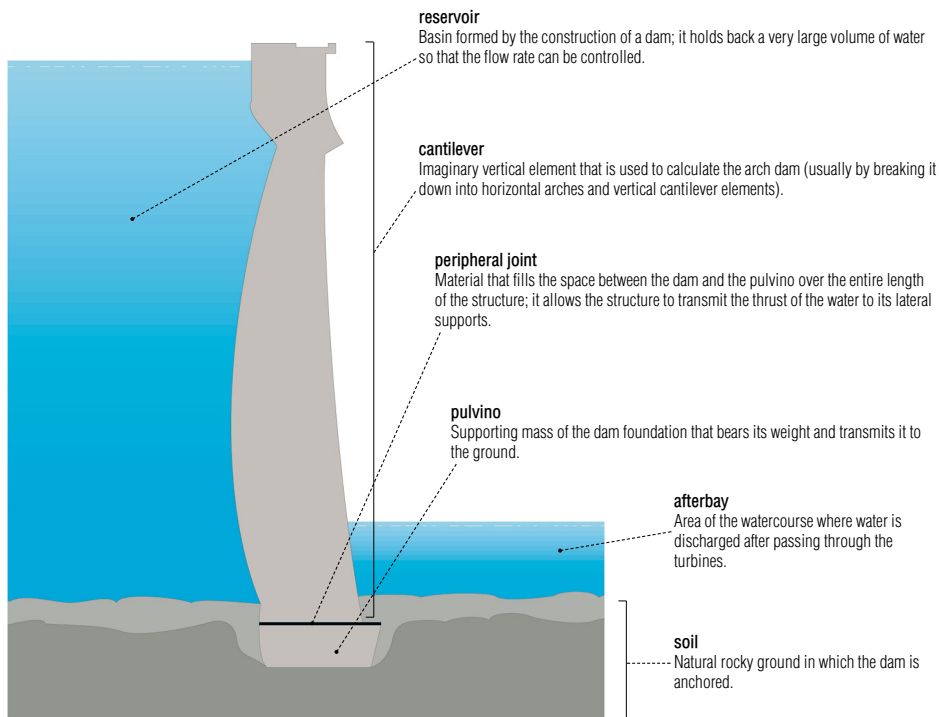
Granular material that is inserted between the core and the shoulder; it filters particles carried by the water flow to prevent erosion.

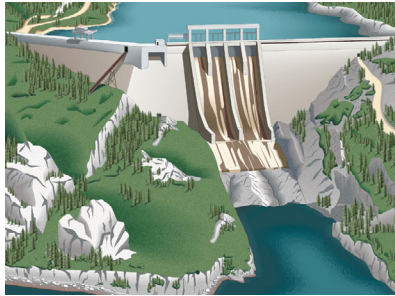


examples of dams

arch dam

Its curvature allows most of the water's thrust to be transmitted to the usually narrow valley slopes supporting it.

**cross section of an arch dam**

**gravity dam**

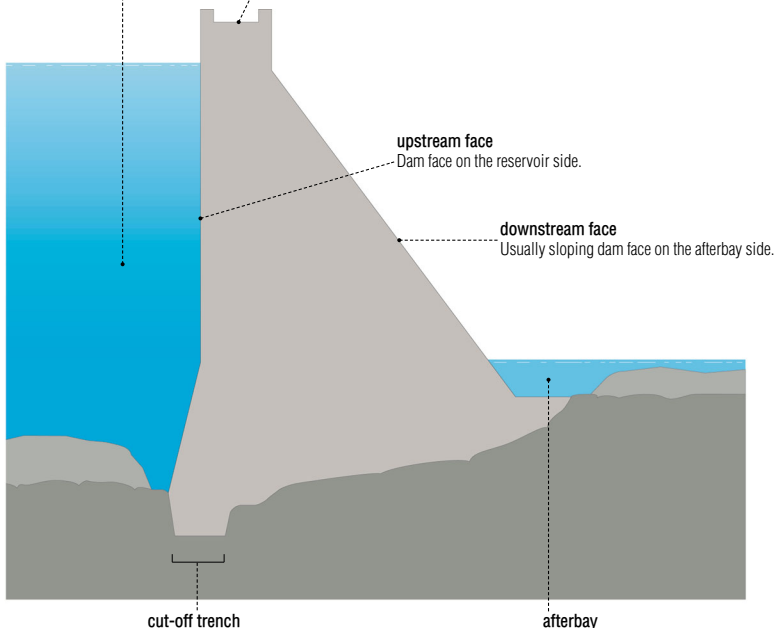
Its huge mass resists the thrust of the water to prevent it from overturning or sliding; this type of dam is usually used to hold back large volumes of water.

reservoir

Basin formed by the construction of a dam; it holds back a very large volume of water so that the flow rate can be controlled.

top of dam

Upper part of the dam that usually contains a roadway.

cross section of a gravity dam**upstream face**

Dam face on the reservoir side.

downstream face

Usually sloping dam face on the afterbay side.

cut-off trench

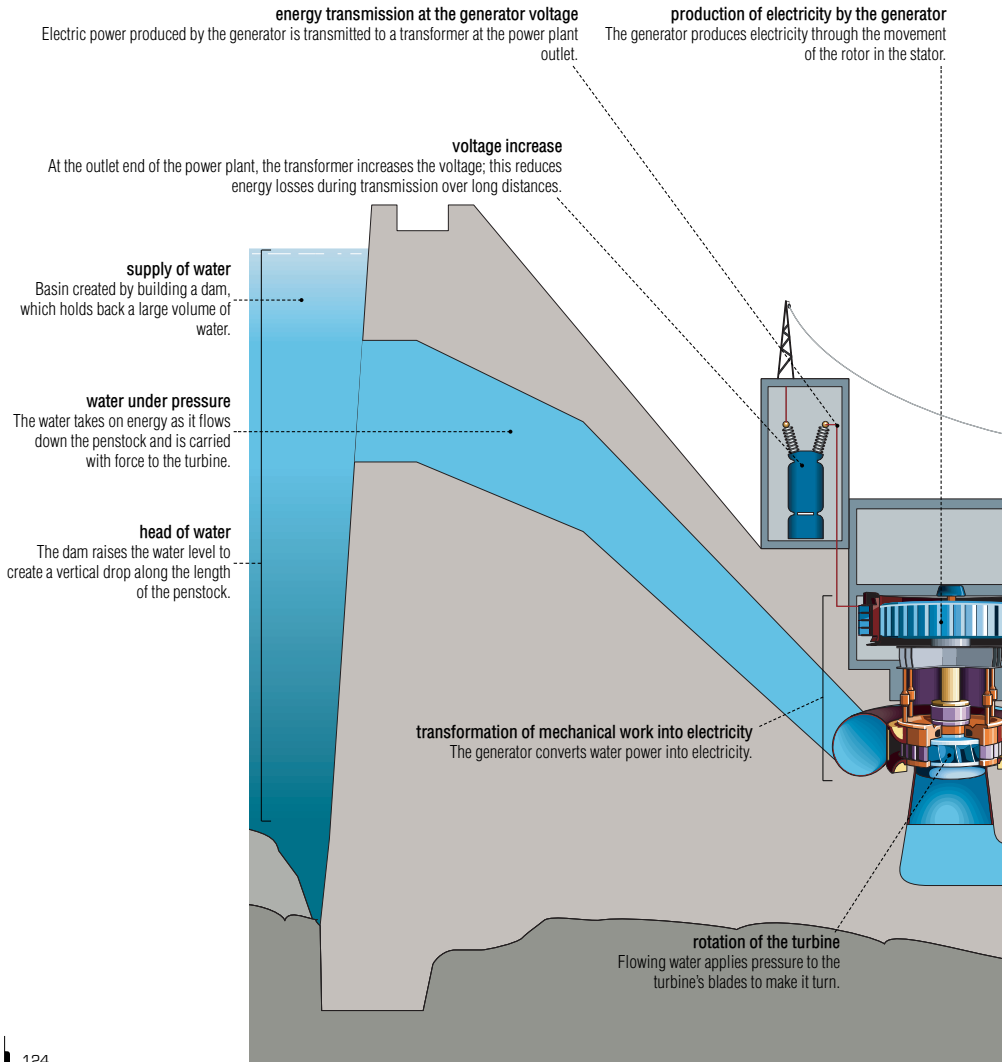
Watertight structure that extends the foundations of the dam into the ground; it limits leakage and infiltration under the dam.

afterbay

Area of the watercourse where water is discharged after passing through the turbines.

steps in production of electricity

In a hydroelectric power plant, water is turned into electricity, which is carried to consumers along a transportation and distribution network.



energy integration to the transmission network

The electricity produced is integrated into the network.

high-tension electricity transmission

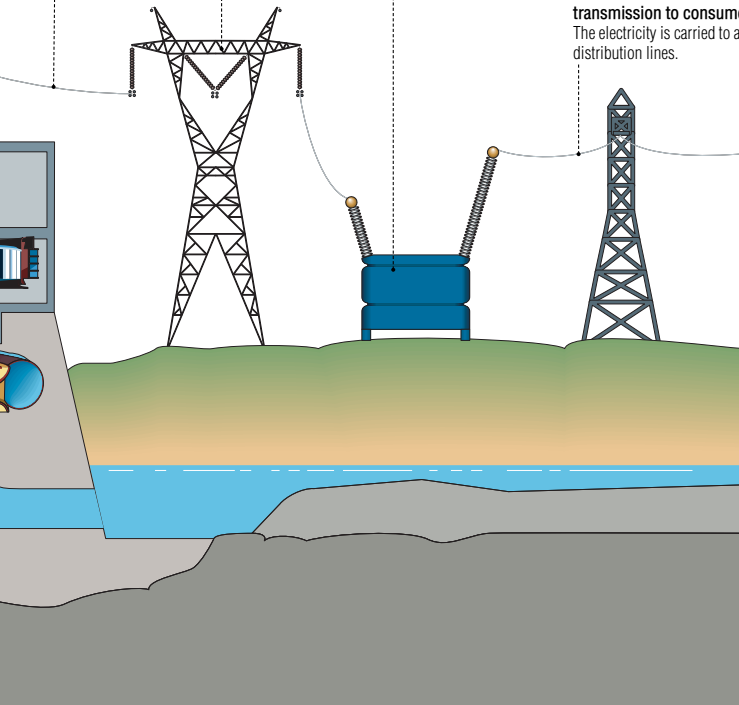
Using high-voltage lines to transmit electricity over long distances reduces the strength of the current and, as a result, energy losses.

voltage decrease

Before integrating the electricity into the distribution network, the voltage is progressively decreased to 240 V.

transmission to consumers

The electricity is carried to areas of consumption by low-voltage distribution lines.

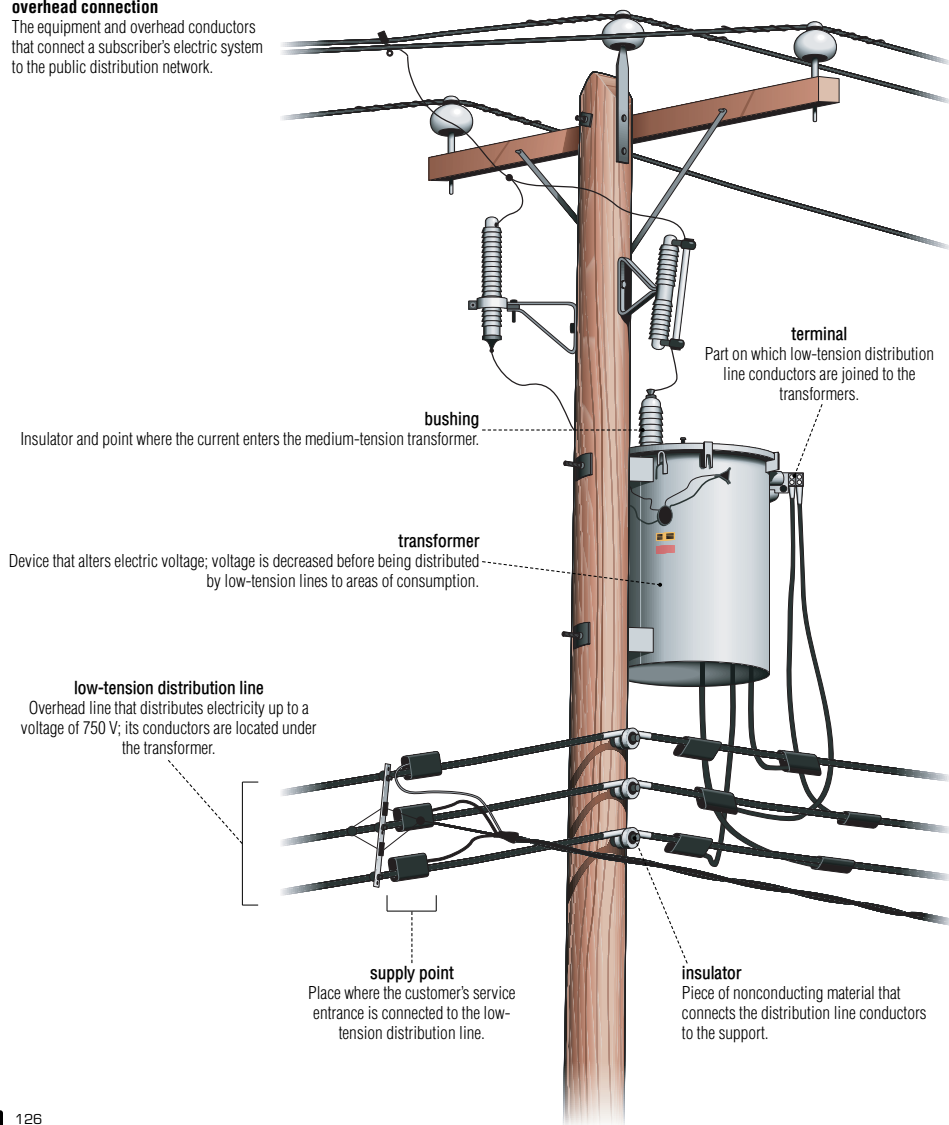


electricity transmission

Electricity is carried by overhead and underground lines; due to high cost, underground lines are used mainly in cities.

overhead connection

The equipment and overhead conductors that connect a subscriber's electric system to the public distribution network.



medium-tension distribution line

Overhead line that distributes electricity at a voltage between 750 and 50,000 V; its conductors are located at the top of electricity poles.

hot line connector

Linking piece with a bolt, which is tightened to bring together two conductors to establish an electric connection between them.

brace

Slanted part that connects the pole to the crossarm to hold it in place horizontally.

insulator

Piece of nonconducting material that connects the distribution line conductors to the support.

crossarm

Horizontal element located at the top of an electricity pole; insulators are attached to it.

lightning arrester

Device that protects the electric facilities from power surges caused by lightning.

fuse cutout

Unit that consists of a fuse and a fuse holder.

fuse holder

Electric junction point where the fuse is attached and on which it articulates so the fuse can fall over.

fuse

Protection device for the electric circuit; it falls from the fuse holder to cut the current in the event of a surge.

pylon

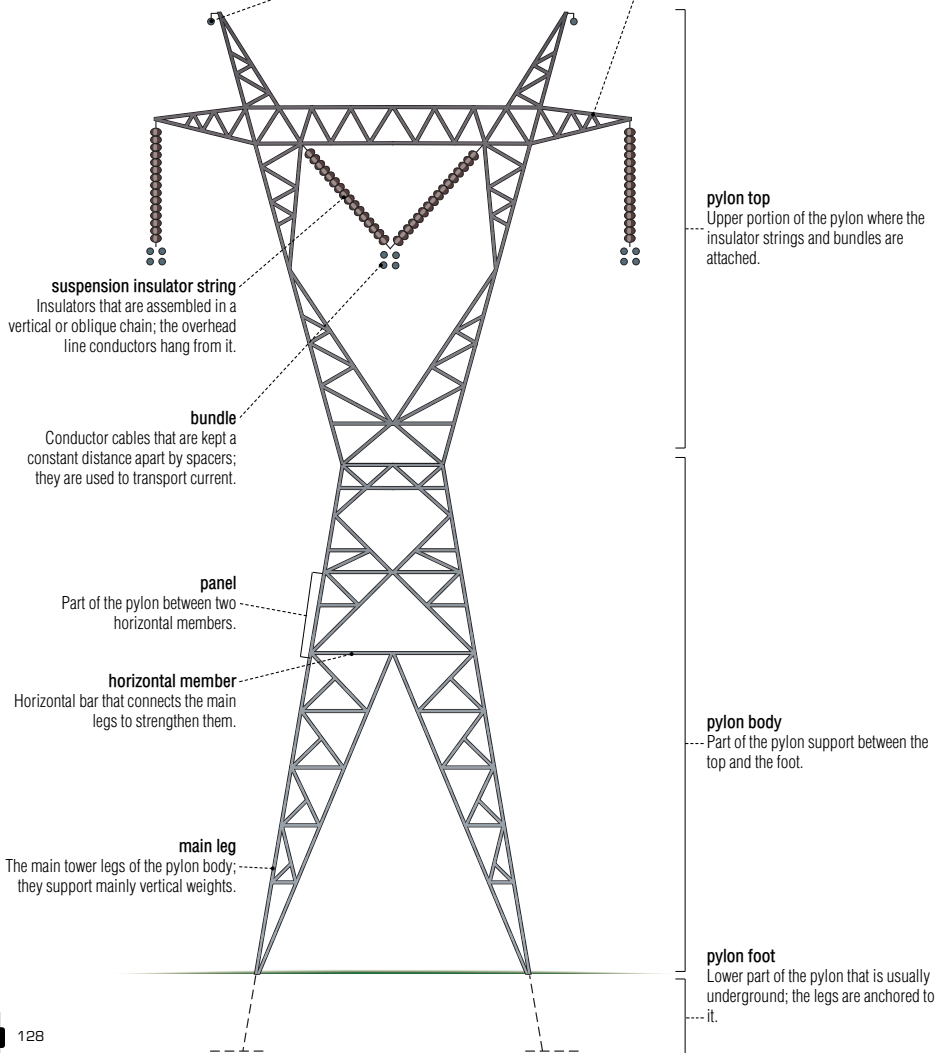
Metal beam that supports the electric conductors along the overhead transportation lines.

overhead ground wire

Conductor that is connected to the ground and attached above the bundles of the overhead lines to protect them from lightning.

crossarm

Horizontal element that protrudes on each side of the pylon; it supports the bundles by means of suspension insulator strings.



network connection

Set of equipment and conductors allowing a customer's electric installation to be connected to the public grid.

medium-tension distribution line

Overhead electricity-distribution lines with tension between 750 and 50,000 volts; its conductors are located at the top of the poles.

connection point

Place where the customer's electric hookup is connected to the electric grid.

low-tension distribution line

Overhead electricity-distribution line with a maximum tension of 750 volts; its conductors are located under the transformer.

ground wire

Metal conductor inserted into the ground ensuring that accidental electric leakages are conducted to the earth.

electricity meter

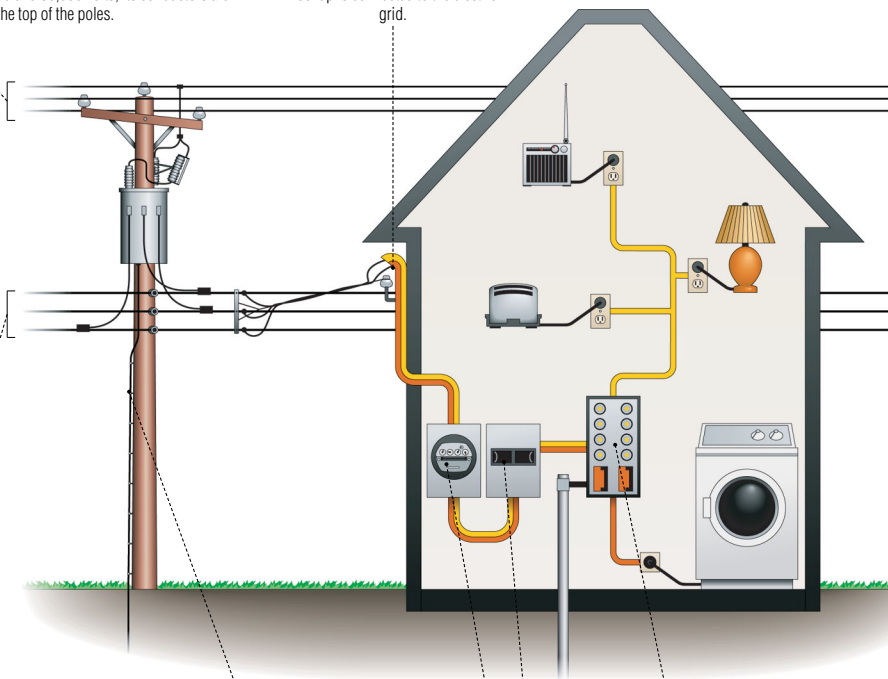
Device measuring the consumption of electricity by a dwelling.

main switch

Mechanism allowing a dwelling's current to be cut off.

distribution panel

Set of devices forming the junction of the public electricity grid and the electric circuits of a dwelling.



tidal power plant

Plant that harnesses tidal power (the motion of the rising and falling tides) to produce electric power.

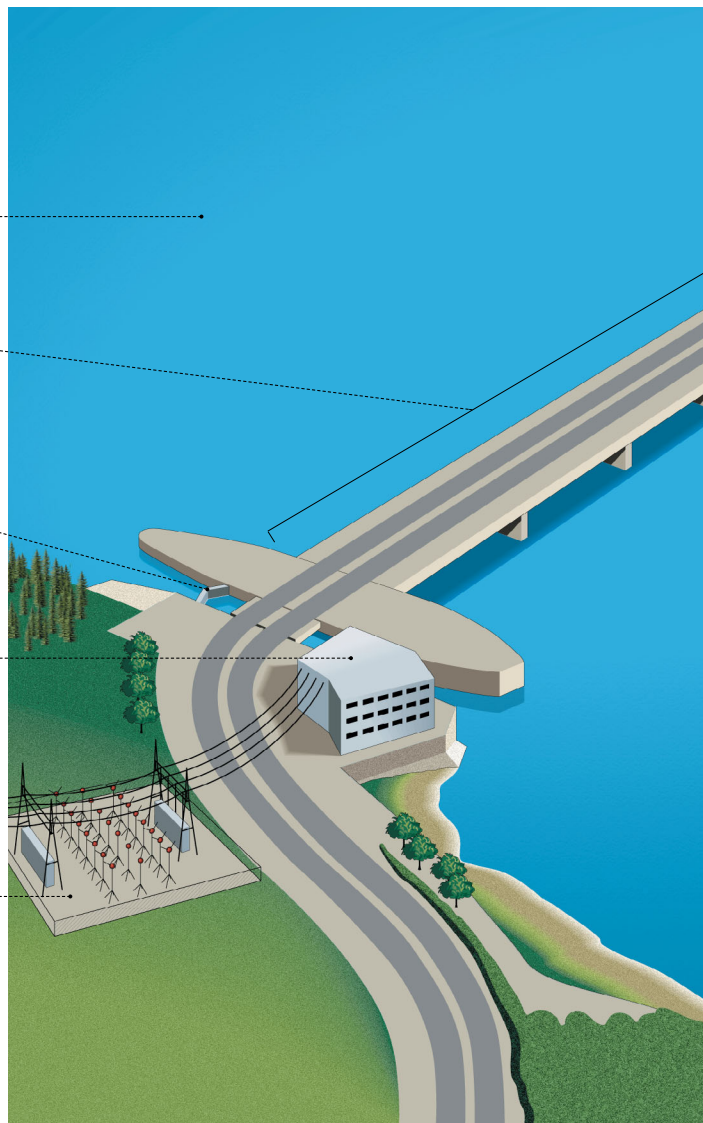
sea
Vast body of saltwater at some distance inland; it is not as deep as an ocean.

power plant
Part of the dam housing bulb units that are powered by the rise and fall of the sea to produce electricity.

lock
Structure with doors and gates that is built between the sea and the basin; it allows boats to pass from one level to the other.

administrative building

substation
The devices (such as transformers and changeover switches) that increase the voltage of the electricity and carry it to the network.



**bank**

Strip of land bordering the sea.

gate

Movable vertical panel that controls the rate of flow of the water between the sea and the basin.

operating dam

Structure with gates that control the basin level in relation to the level of the sea.

inactive dike

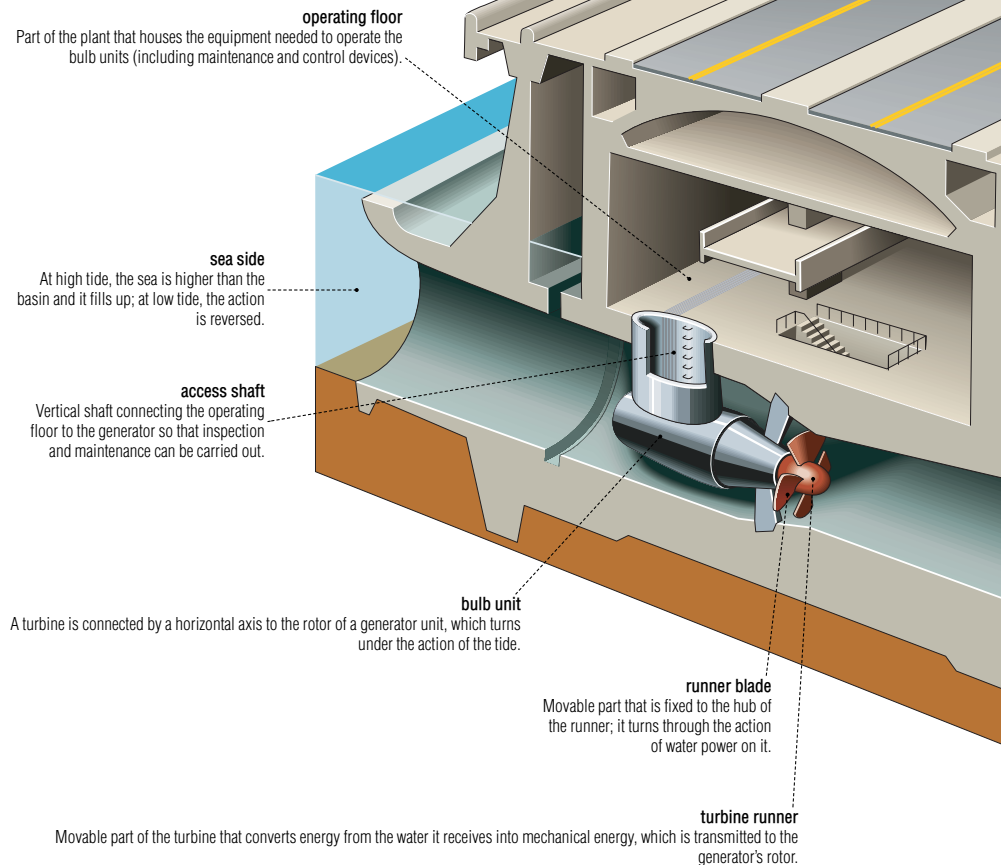
Part of the dam made up mainly of rocky material; it is built between the plant and the operating dam to separate the basin from the sea.

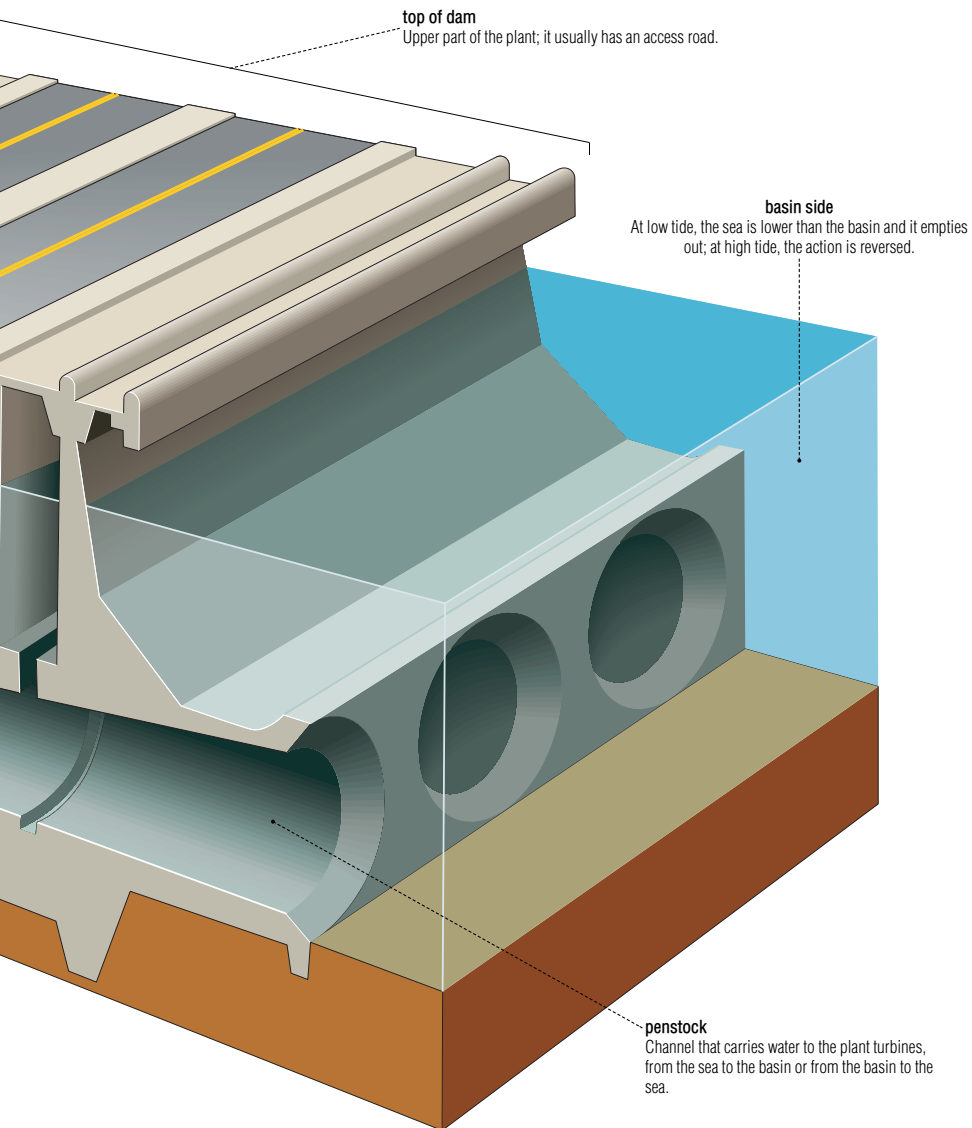
basin

Area in which water is stored at high tide; the basin empties out through the penstocks at low tide.

tidal power plant

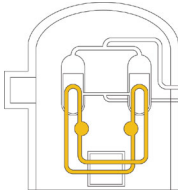
cross section of a power plant





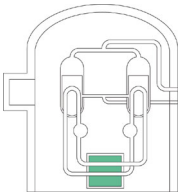
production of electricity from nuclear energy

A nuclear fission chain reaction is started and controlled inside the reactor to produce electricity.



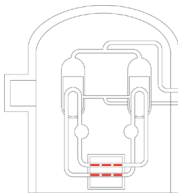
coolant

Liquid or gas (including heavy water and carbon dioxide) that circulates inside the reactor; it harnesses and transports the heat released during fission of the fuel.



moderator

Substance (ordinary water, heavy water, graphite) that slows the fast-moving neutrons emitted during fission to increase the probability of new collisions.



fuel

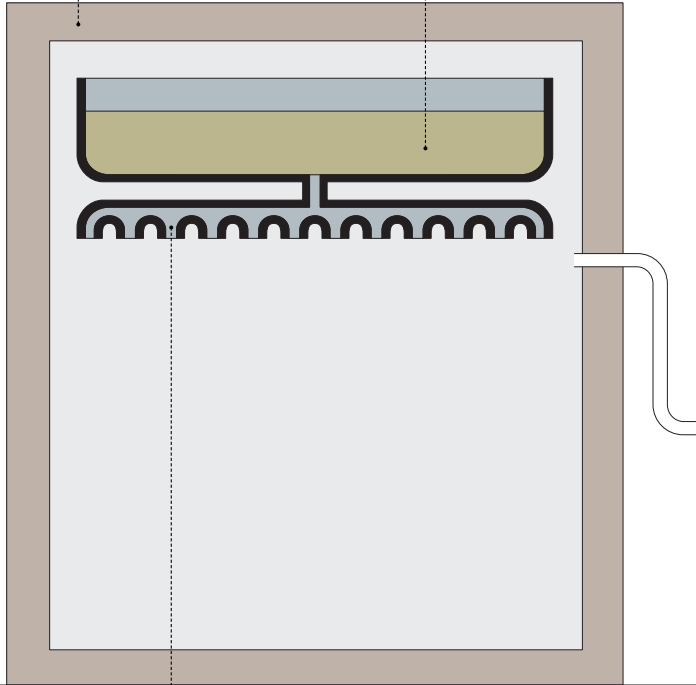
Matter placed in the core of the reactor that contains heavy atoms (uranium, plutonium); energy is extracted from it by fission.

containment building

Concrete building used to collect the radioactive steam from the reactor in the event of an accident.

dousing water tank

Vat that contains water to cool the radioactive steam in the reactor in the event of an accident; this prevents a rise in pressure.



sprinklers

Devices that release water to condense radioactive steam.

safety valve

Device that lowers the pressure inside the reactor by discharging the radioactive steam to the containment building.

transfer of heat to water

The coolant releases the heat given off by the fission of uranium to the steam generator.

water turns into steam

The hot coolant heats the water of the generator and brings it to the boiling point.

reactor

Tightly sealed area where fission of the fuel is carried out in a controlled manner to release heat.

fission of uranium fuel

The nuclei of the atoms break up; this frees neutrons and releases energy in the form of heat.

cold coolant

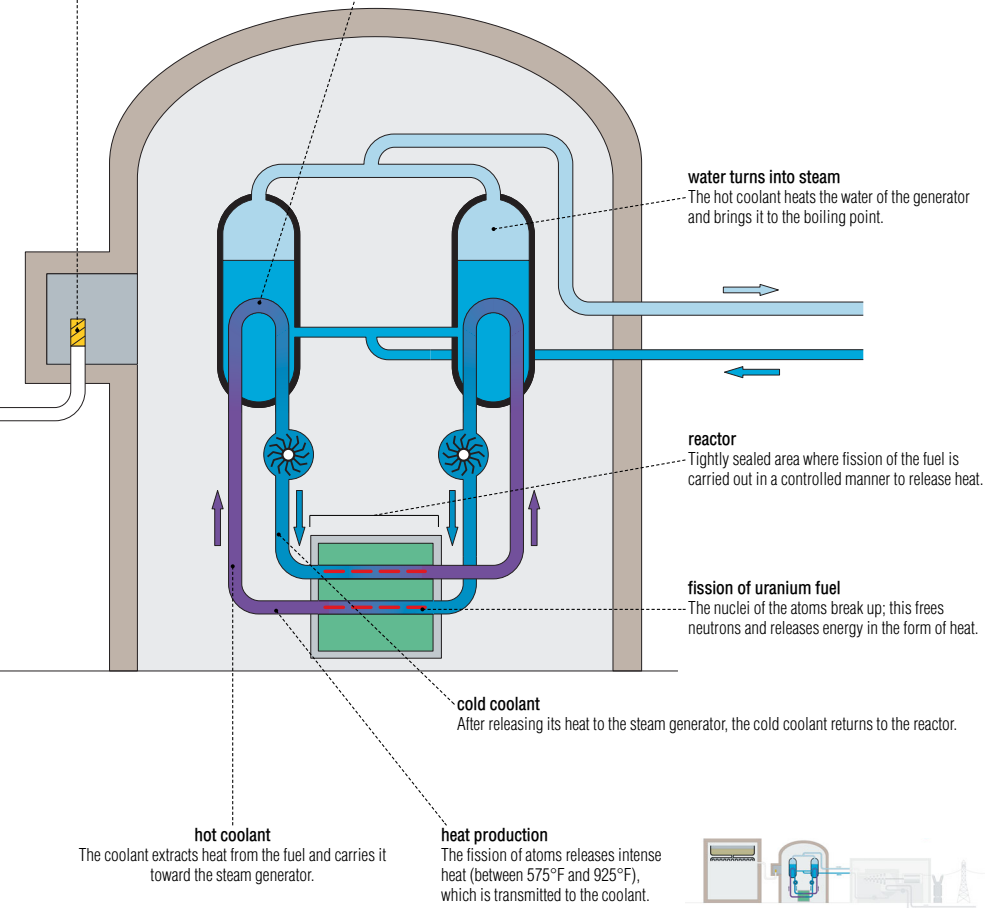
After releasing its heat to the steam generator, the cold coolant returns to the reactor.

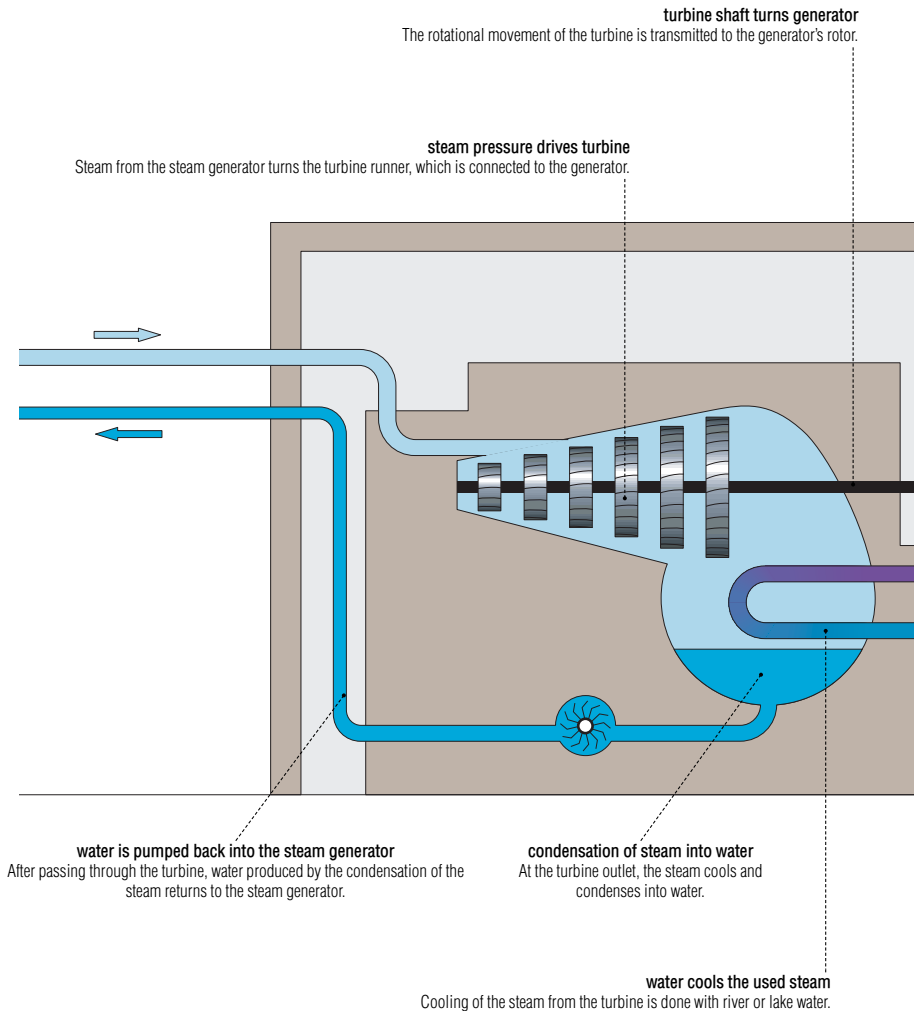
hot coolant

The coolant extracts heat from the fuel and carries it toward the steam generator.

heat production

The fission of atoms releases intense heat (between 575°F and 925°F), which is transmitted to the coolant.



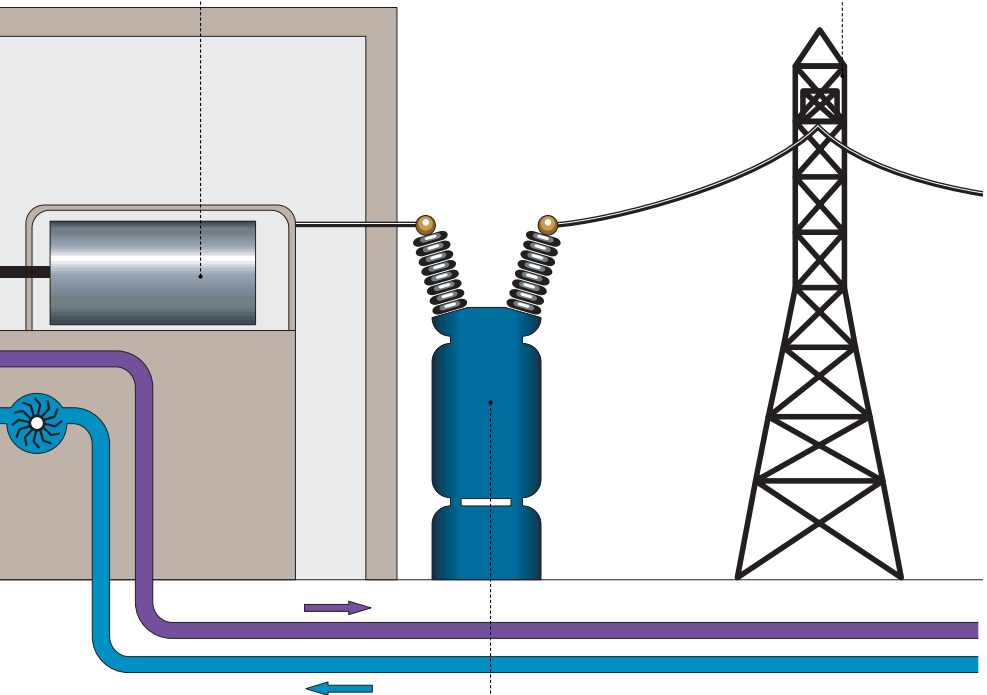


production of electricity by the generator

The generator produces electricity through the movement of the rotor in the stator.

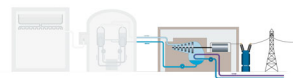
electricity transmission

Using high-voltage lines to transmit electricity over long distances reduces the strength of the current and, as a result, energy losses.



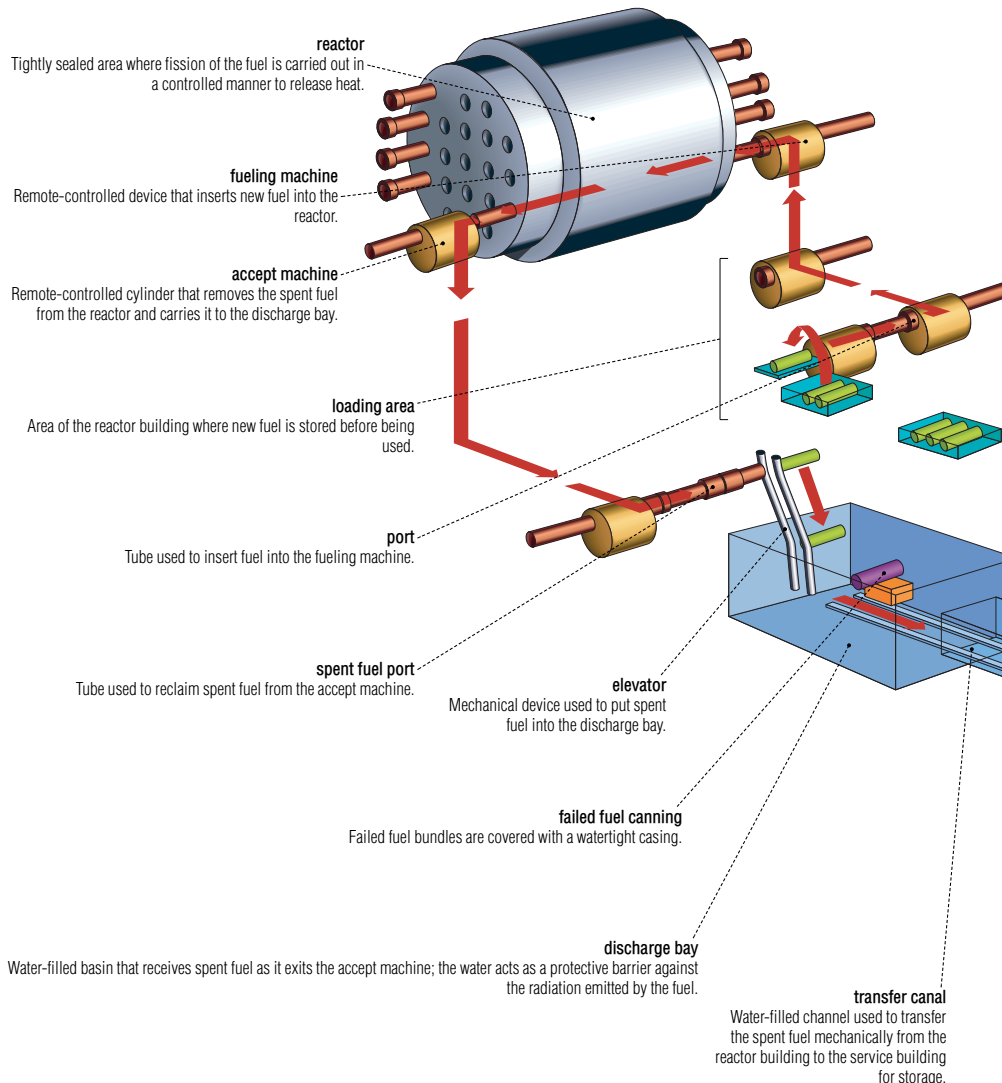
voltage increase

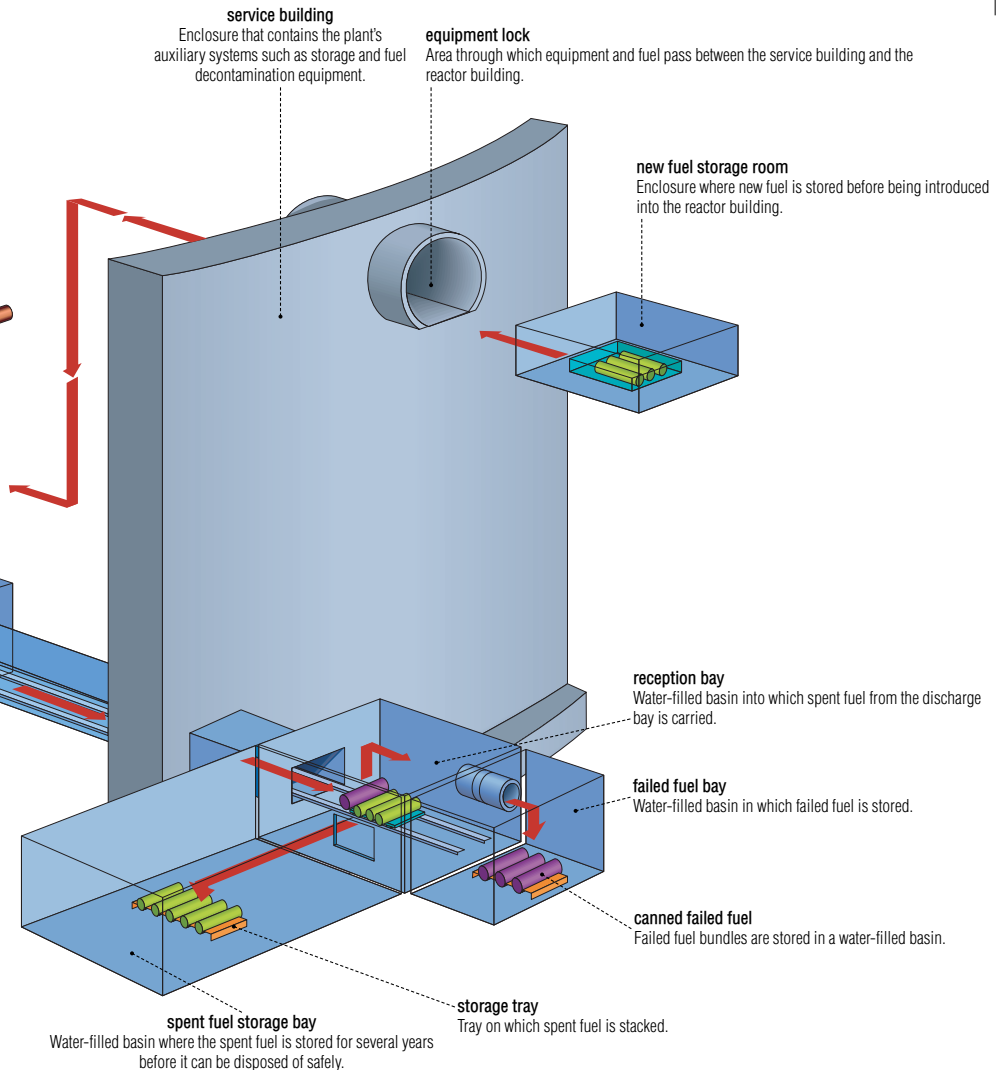
At the outlet end of the power plant, the transformer increases the voltage; this reduces energy losses during transmission over long distances.



fuel handling sequence

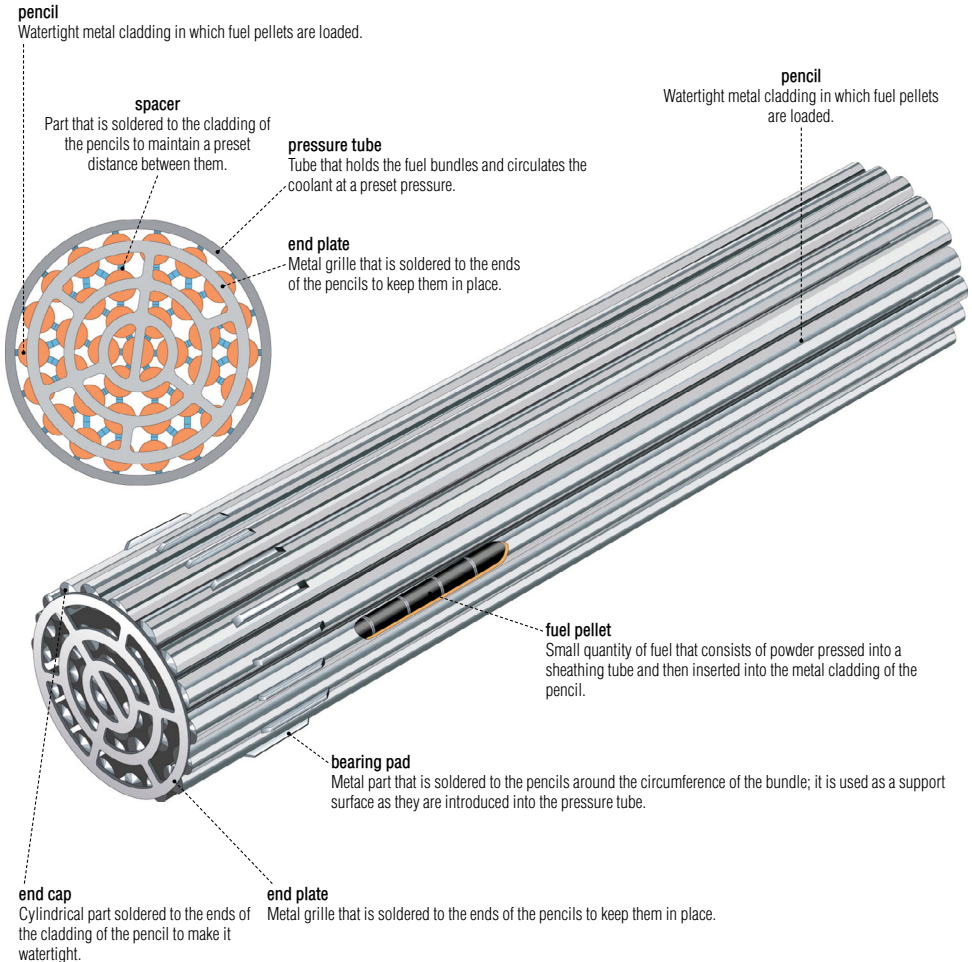
Uranium is made into pellets, which are pressed into fuel bundles to be used in the reactor and then stored in cooling bays.





fuel bundle

Fuel pencils that are grouped in parallel for introduction into the reactor.



Tightly sealed area where fission of the fuel is carried out in a controlled manner to release heat.

fuel pellet

Small quantity of fuel that consists of powder pressed into a sheathing tube and then inserted into the metal cladding of the pencil.

fuel bundle

Fuel pencils that are grouped in parallel for introduction into the reactor.

containment building

Concrete structure surrounding the reactor vessel; it is a protective barrier against radioactivity.

reactor building

Concrete structure surrounding the reactor vessel; it is a protective barrier against radioactivity.

spent fuel storage bay

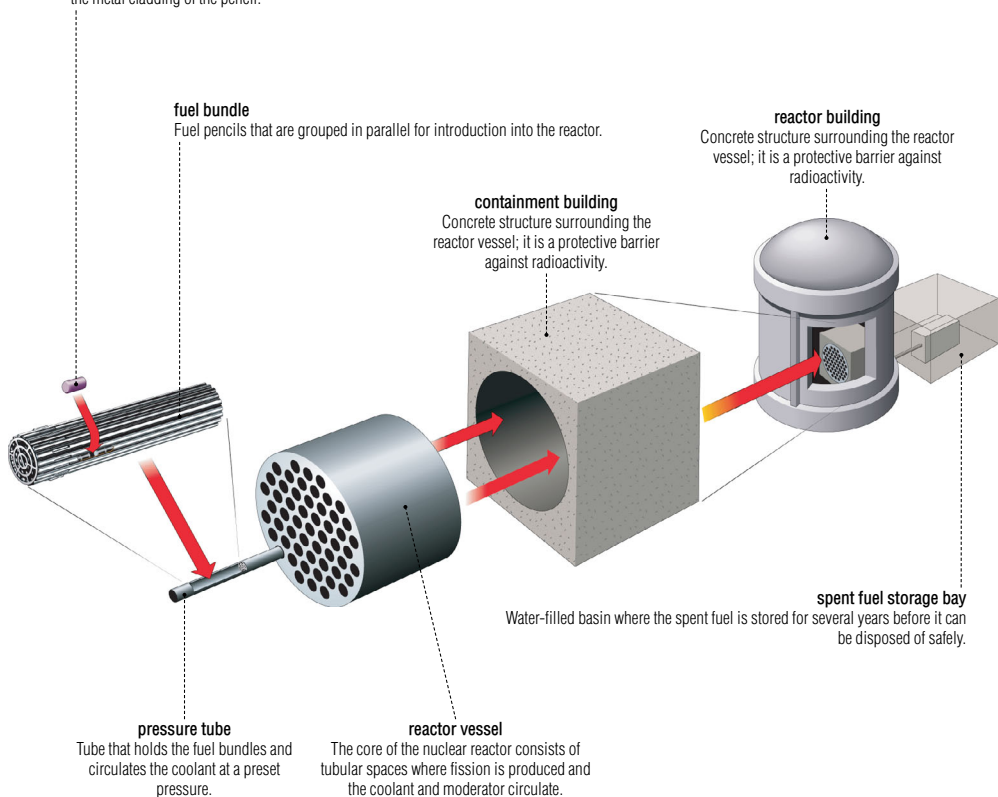
Water-filled basin where the spent fuel is stored for several years before it can be disposed of safely.

pressure tube

Tube that holds the fuel bundles and circulates the coolant at a preset pressure.

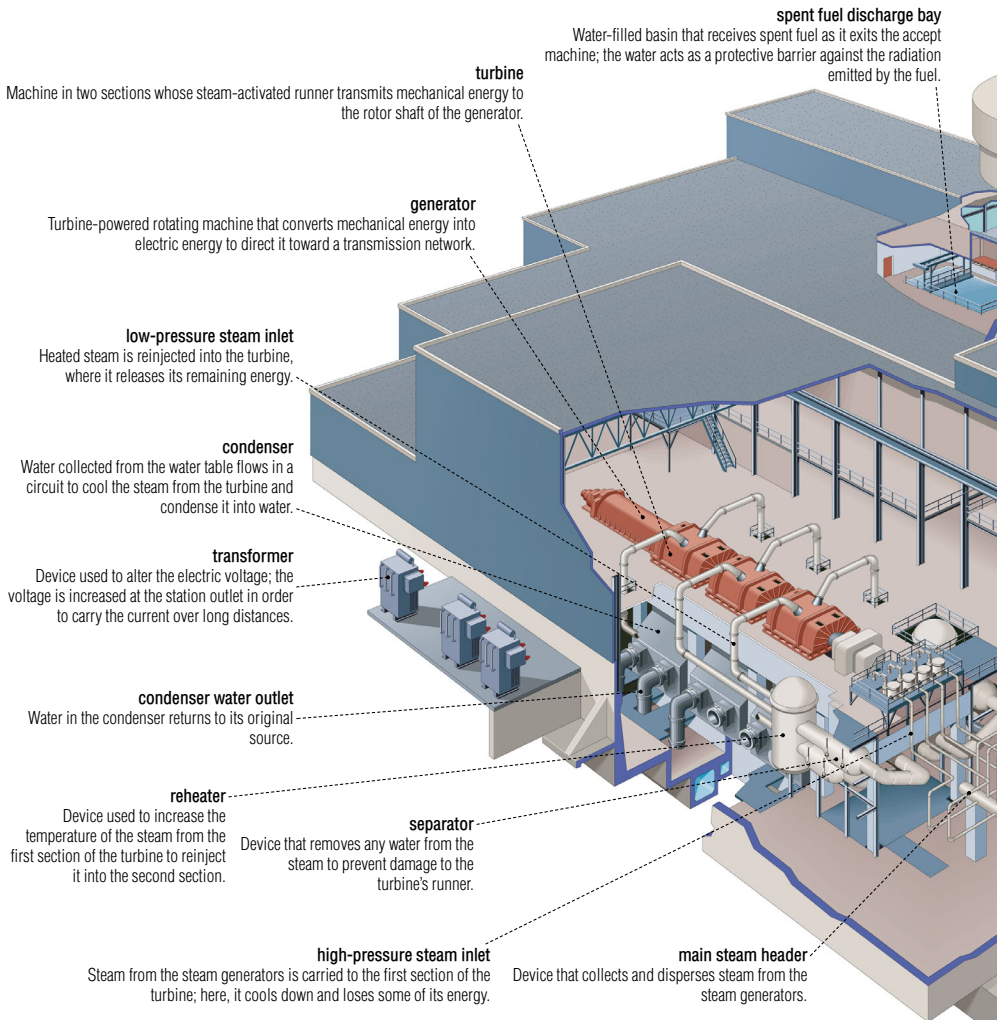
reactor vessel

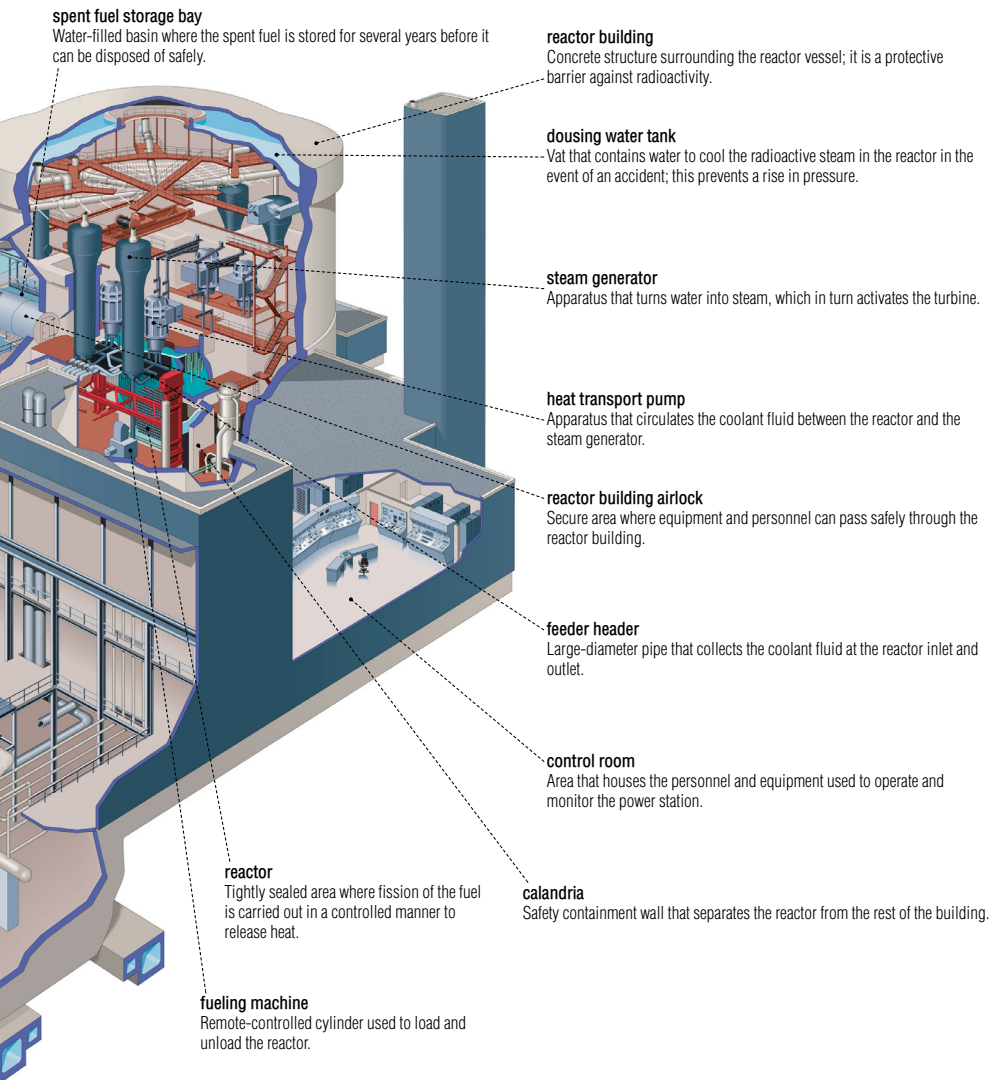
The core of the nuclear reactor consists of tubular spaces where fission is produced and the coolant and moderator circulate.



nuclear generating station

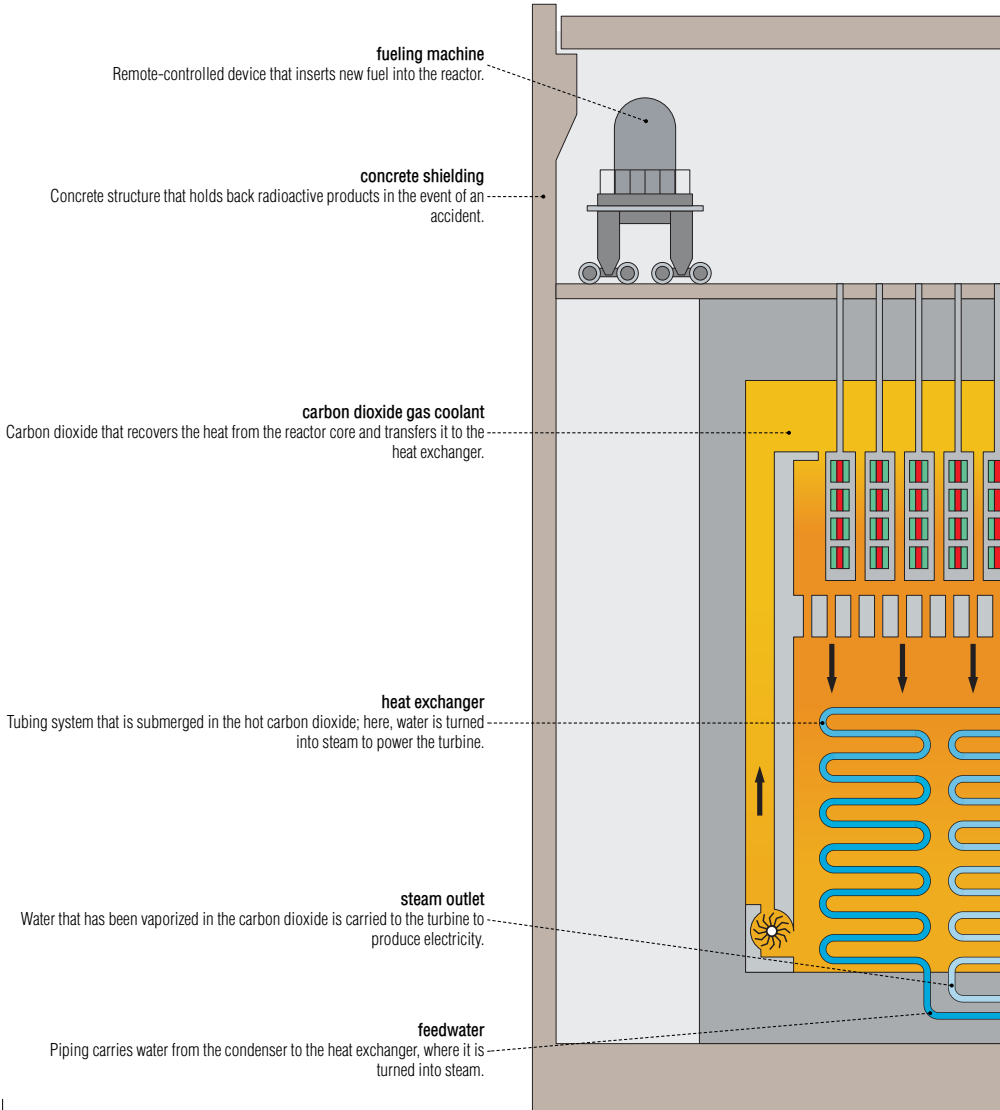
Plant that produces electricity from thermal energy generated by the fission of fuel atoms in a reactor.

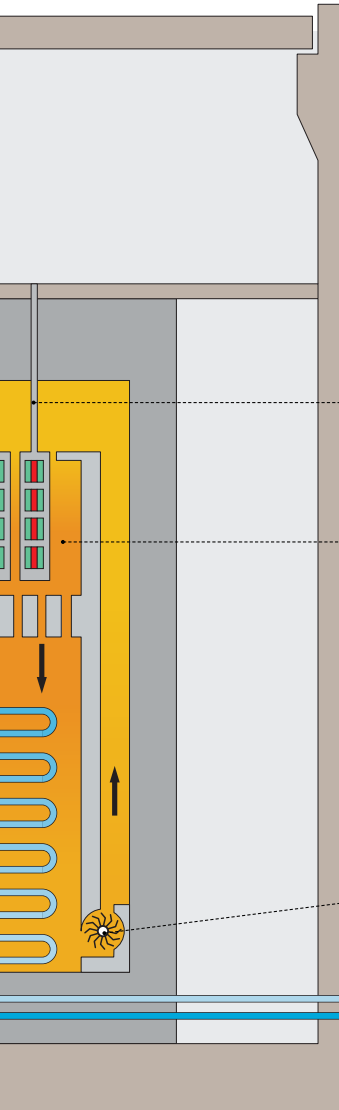




carbon dioxide reactor

Developed for the most part in Great Britain and France, it was replaced by the pressurized water reactor, which performs better and is less expensive.





control rod

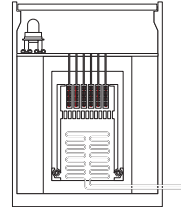
Tube that contains a neutron-absorbing material (boron, cadmium) that is introduced into the reactor core to control its power.

reactor core

Center section of the nuclear reactor where fission reactions take place.

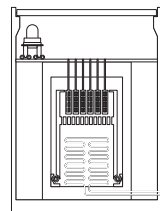
blower

Device that circulates carbon dioxide in the reactor core.



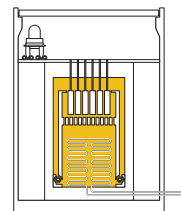
fuel: natural uranium

Natural uranium: fuel extracted from mines; it consists of a mixture of three uranium isotopes (uranium-234, -235 and -238).



moderator: graphite

Moderator: medium that slows the speed of the neutrons to maintain a continuous chain reaction.

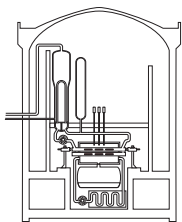


coolant: carbon dioxide

Carbon dioxide: gas that is heavier than air and is produced by burning graphite.

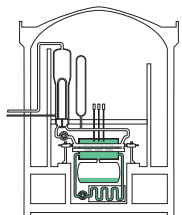
heavy-water reactor

The advantage of this type of reactor is that it does not require fuel enrichment; it is used mainly in Canada, Argentina and India.



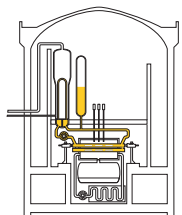
fuel: natural uranium

Natural uranium: fuel extracted from mines; it consists of a mixture of three uranium isotopes (uranium-234, -235 and -238).



moderator: heavy water

Heavy water: water consisting of heavy hydrogen (deuterium) and oxygen; it can slow down neutrons.



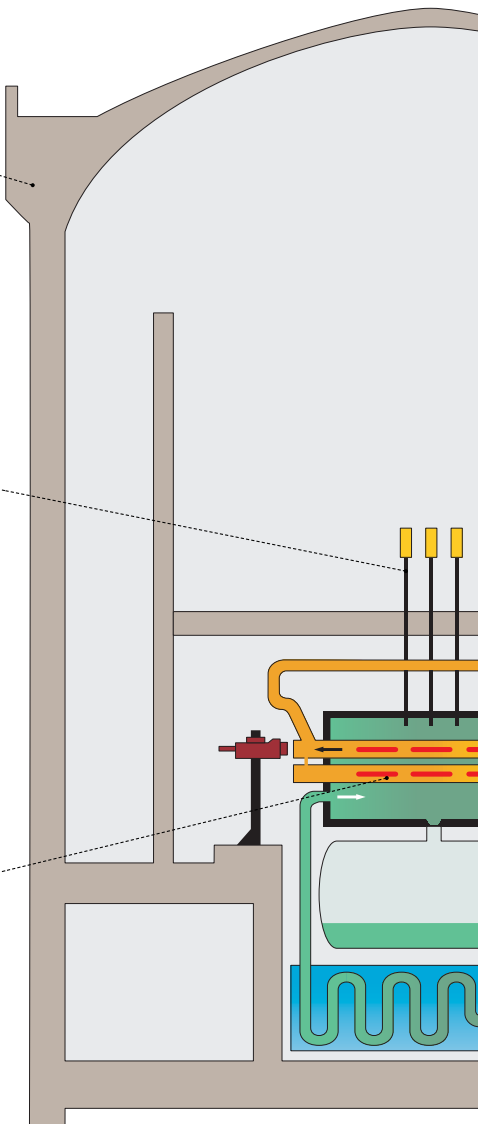
coolant: pressurized heavy water

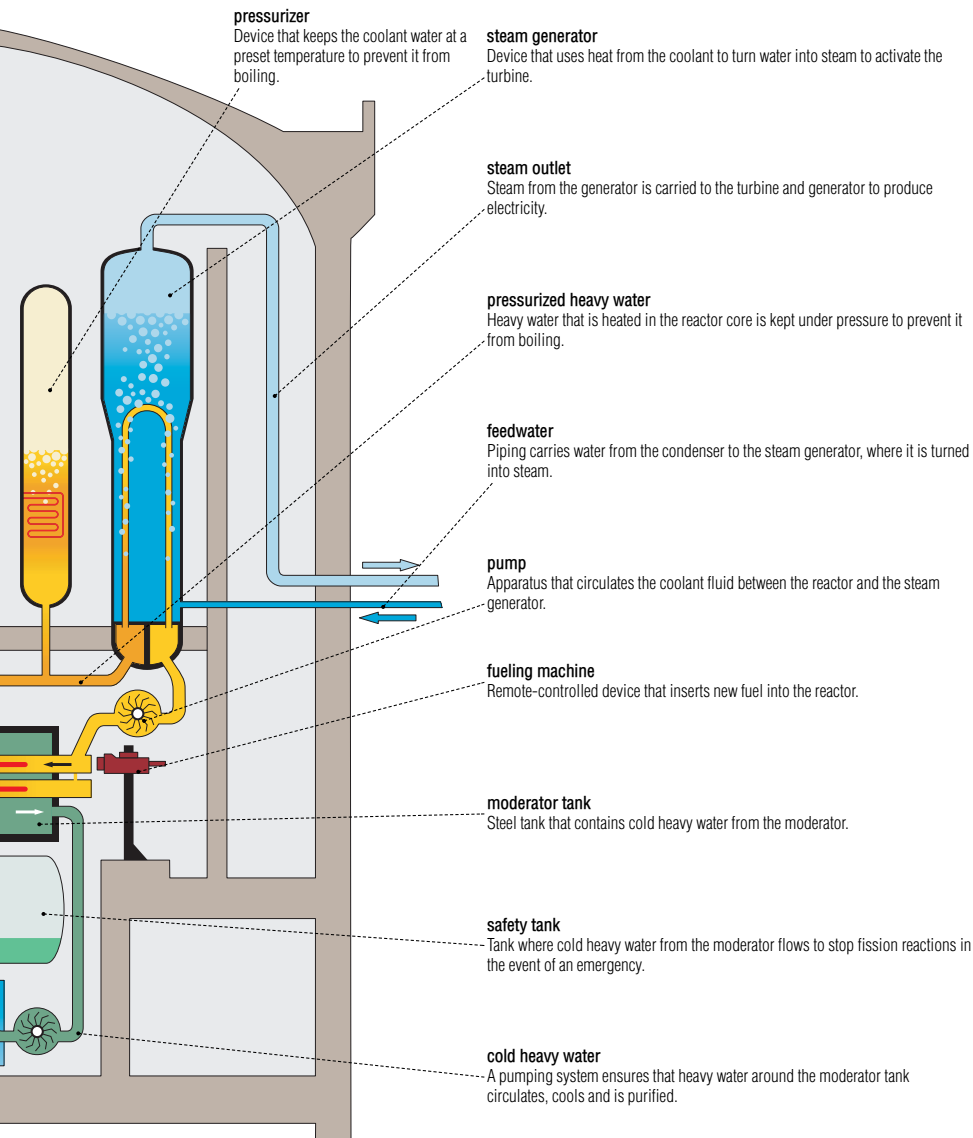
Heavy water is kept at a set pressure to prevent it from boiling.

concrete shielding
Concrete structure that holds back radioactive products in the event of an accident.

control rod
Tube that contains a neutron-absorbing material (boron, cadmium) that is introduced into the reactor core to control its power.

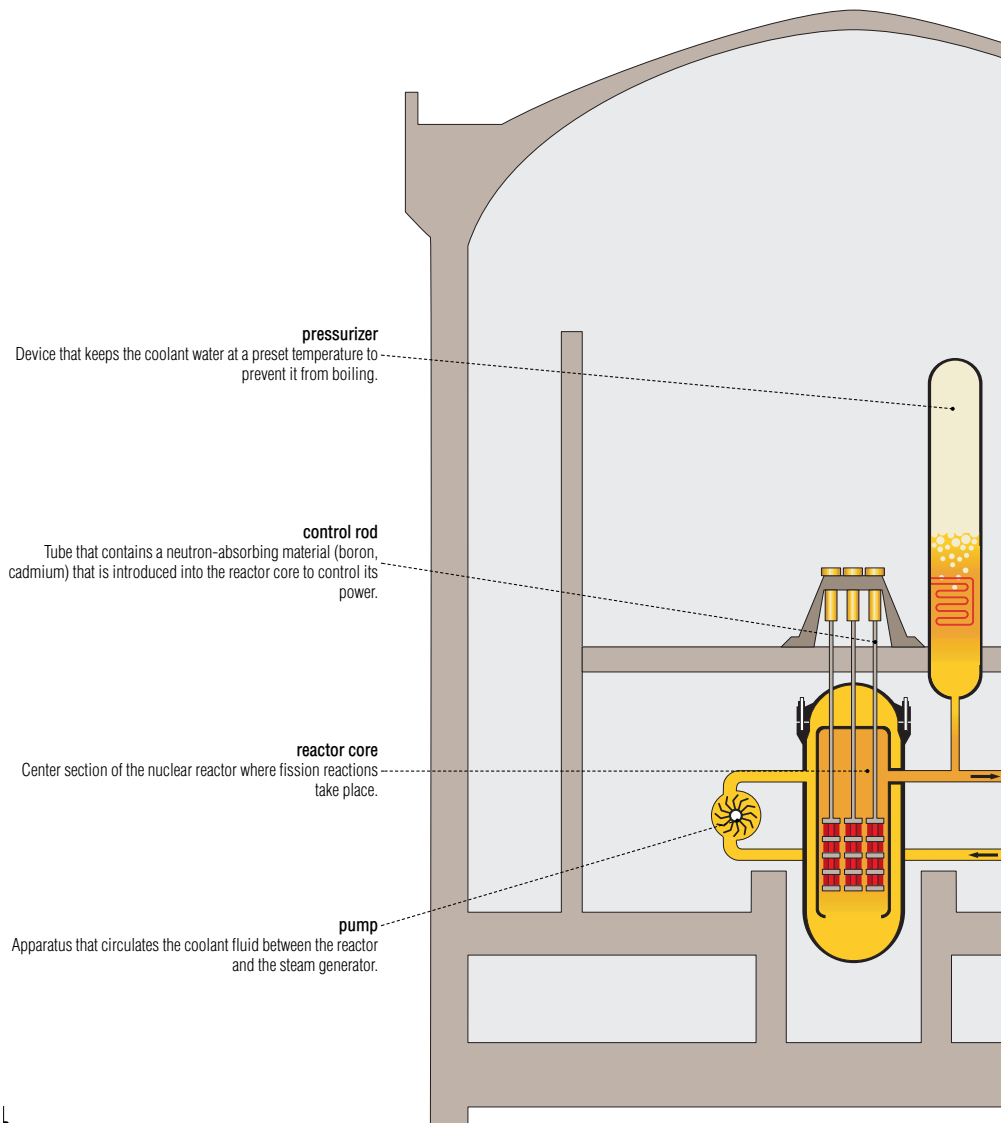
fuel
Matter that is placed in the reactor core; it contains heavy atoms (uranium, plutonium) from which power is extracted by fission.

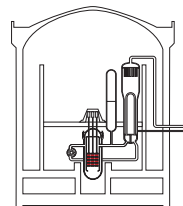
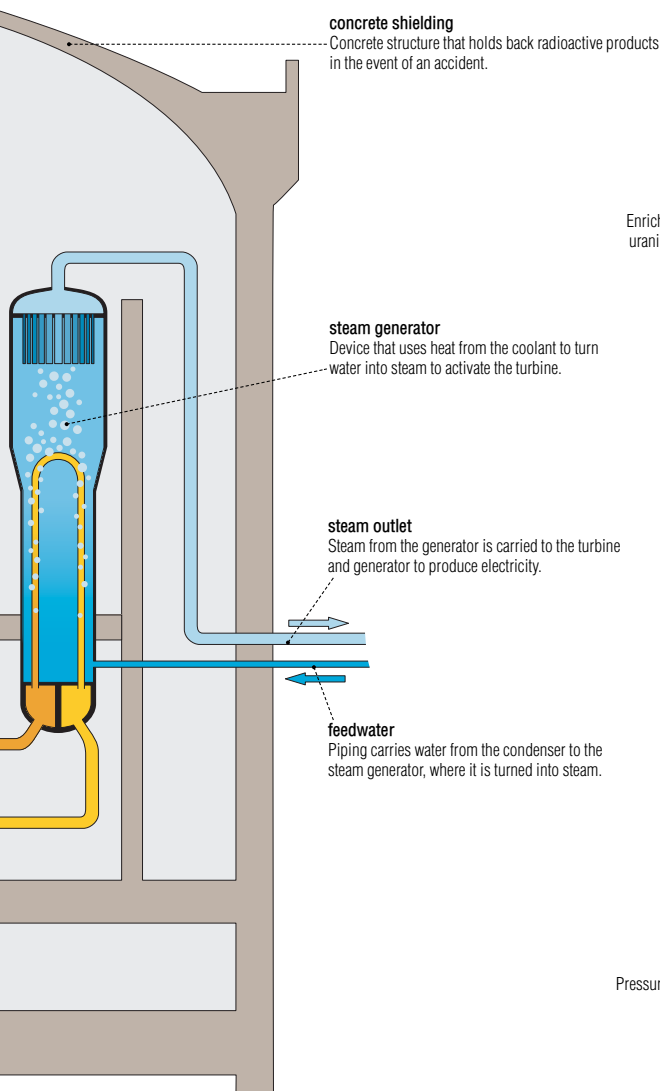




pressurized-water reactor

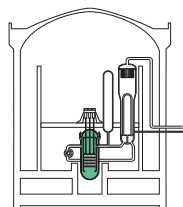
The most common type of reactor in the world; water from the coolant is kept under heavy pressure to prevent it from vaporizing.





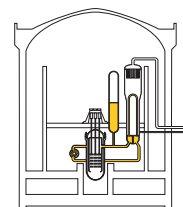
fuel: enriched uranium

Enriched uranium: uranium produced by treating natural uranium to increase the quantity of fissionable isotopes (uranium-253) contained in it.



moderator: natural water

Natural water: water found in its natural state.

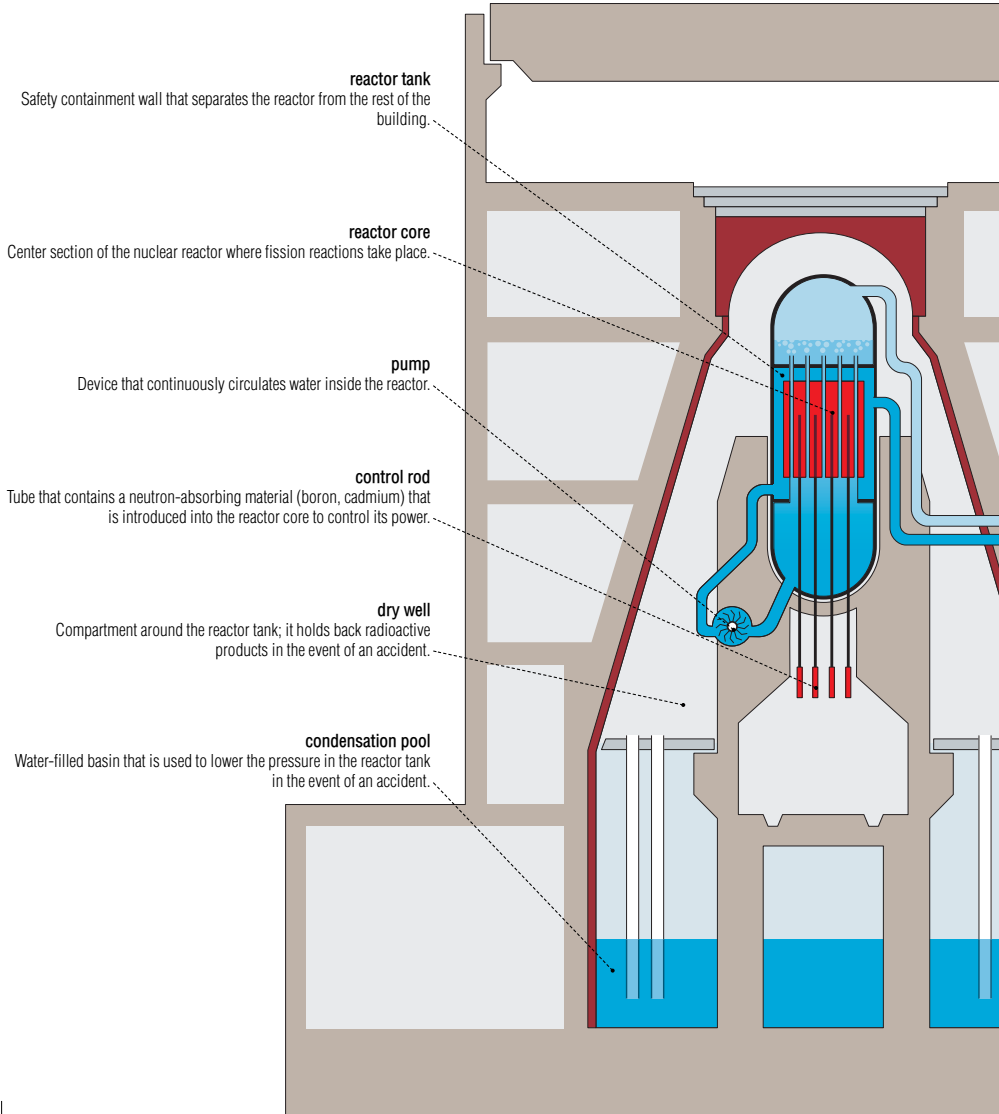


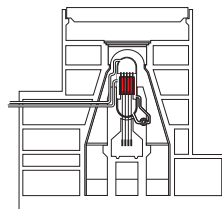
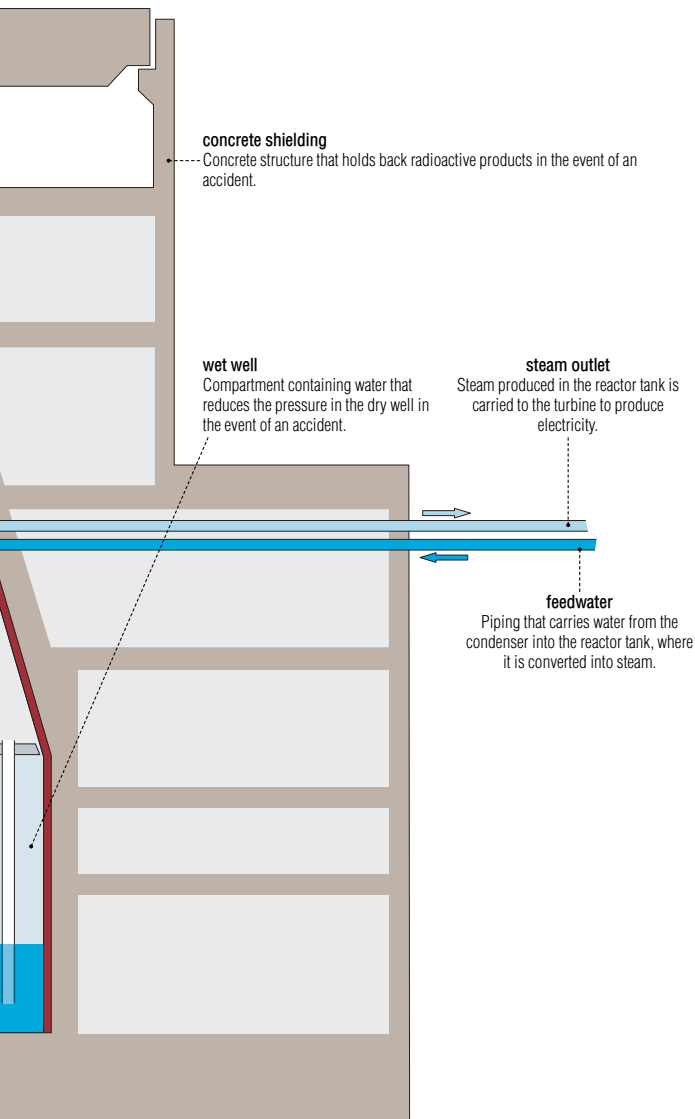
coolant: pressurized water

Pressurized water: natural water kept under a preset pressure to prevent it from boiling.

boiling-water reactor

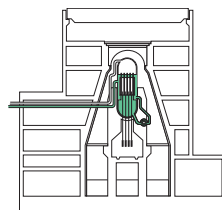
In this second most common reactor, boiling occurs directly in the reactor core; it is used mainly in the United States, Sweden and Japan.





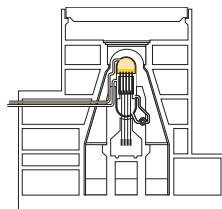
fuel: enriched uranium

Enriched uranium: uranium produced by treating natural uranium to increase the quantity of fissionable isotopes (uranium-253) contained in it.



moderator: natural water

Natural water: water found in its natural state.

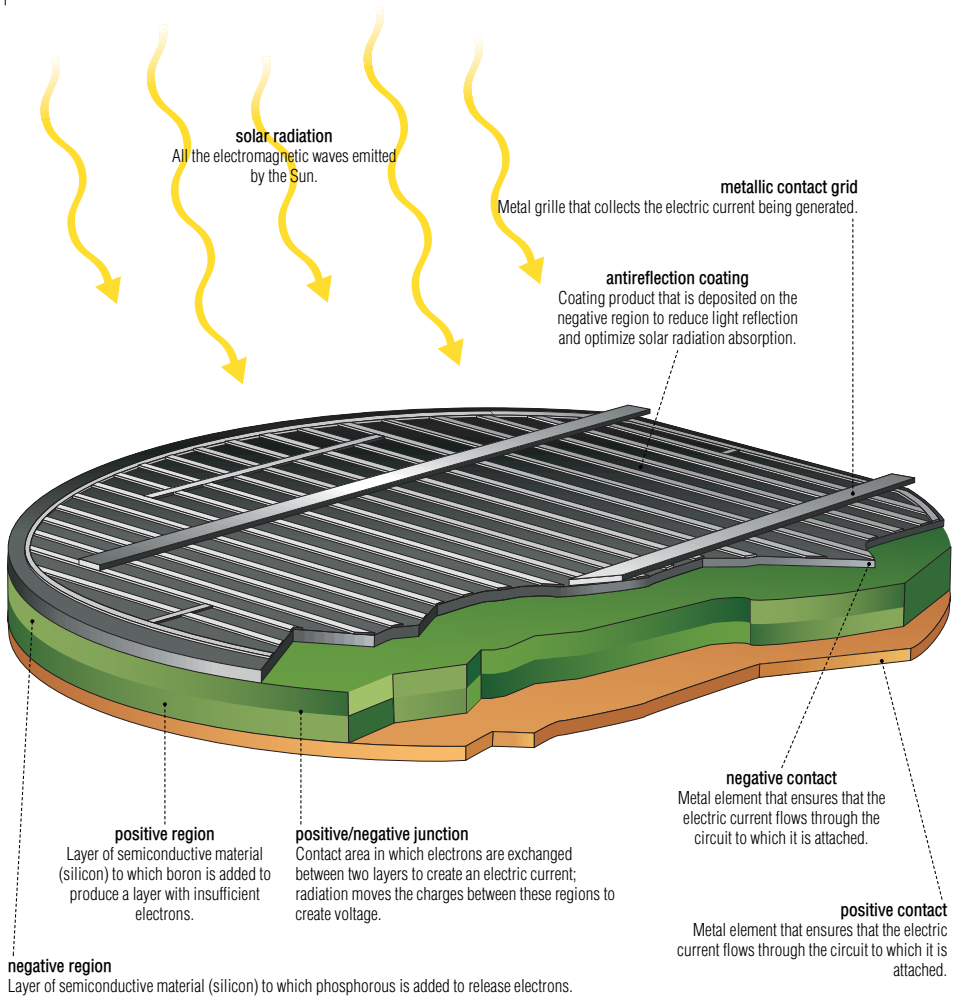


coolant: boiling water

Boiling water: natural water that boils and vaporizes on contact with the heat released by the fuel.

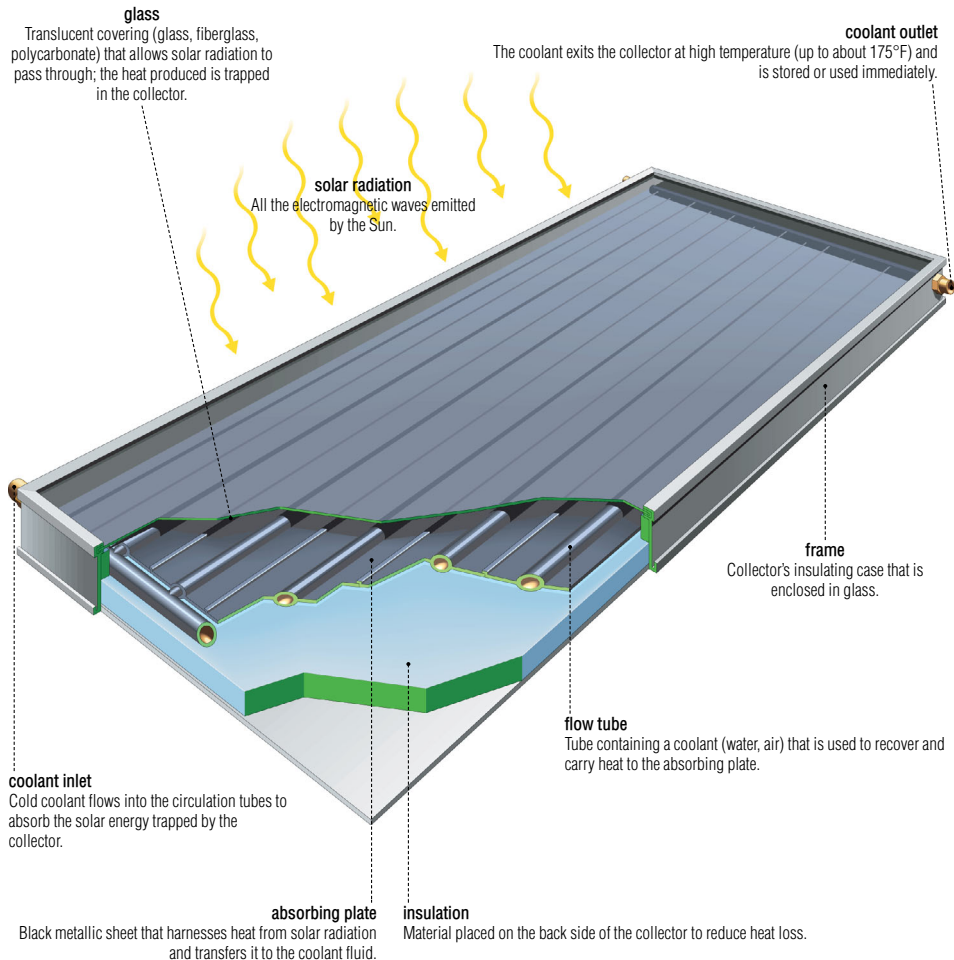
solar cell

Device used to convert solar energy directly into electric energy (photovoltaic effect).



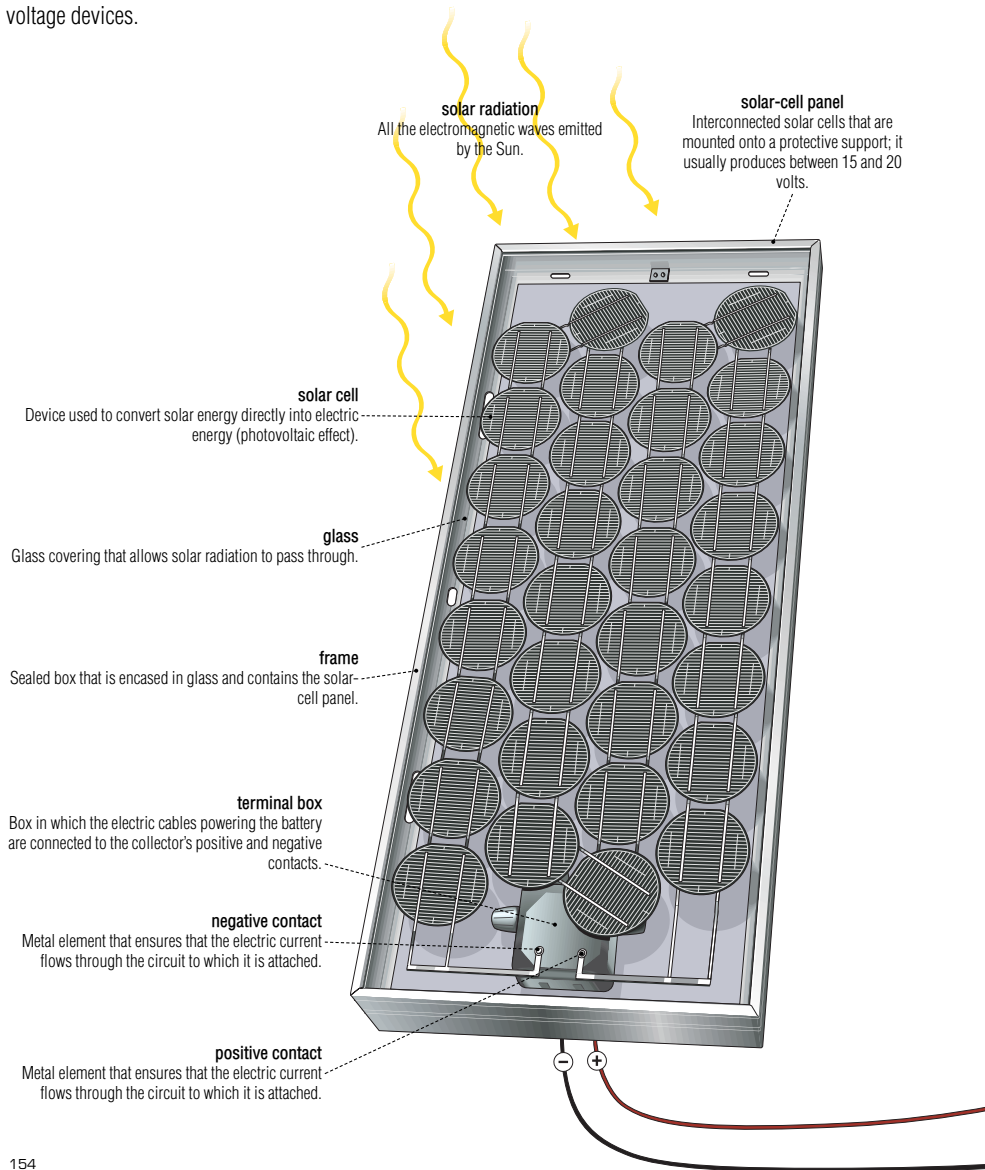
flat-plate solar collector

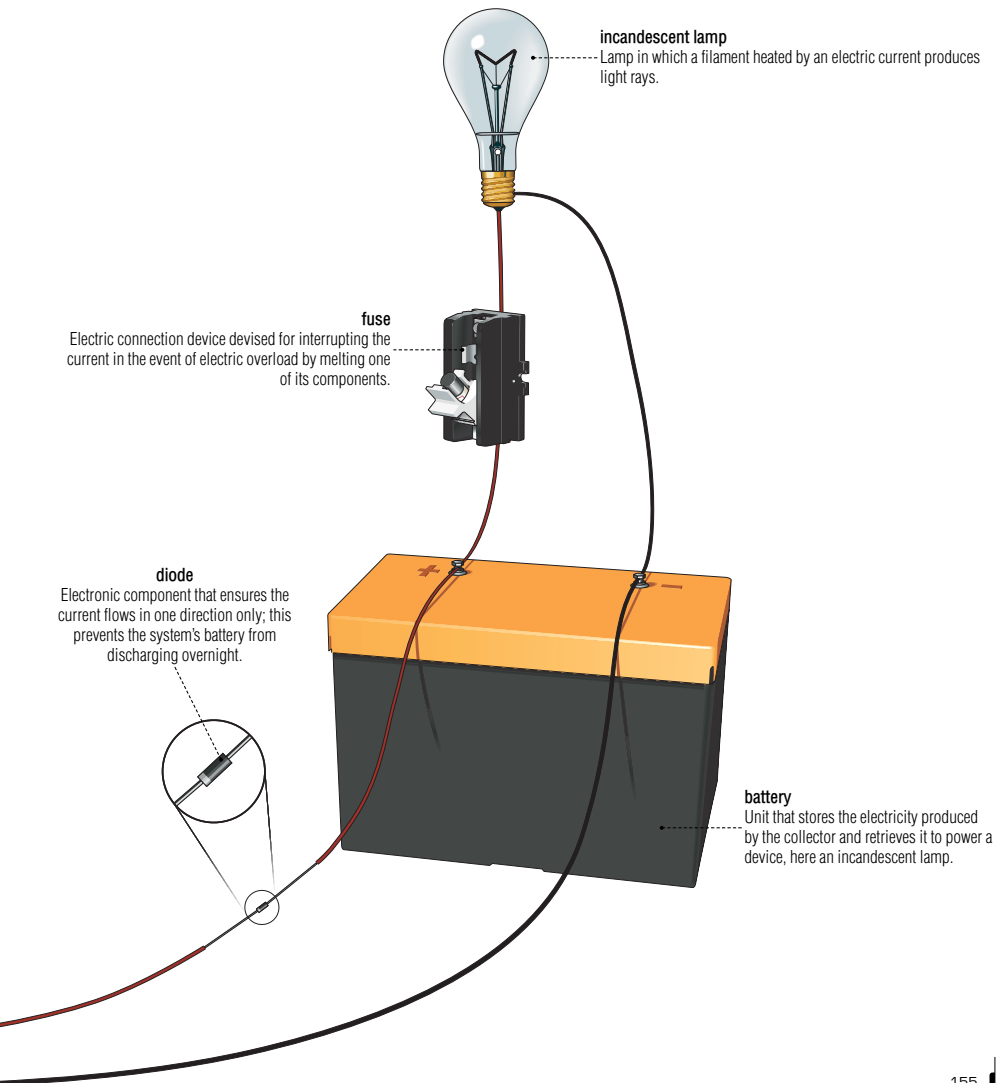
Device that collects solar radiation and heats a coolant, which in turn will be used in residential settings to heat water or the home.



solar-cell system

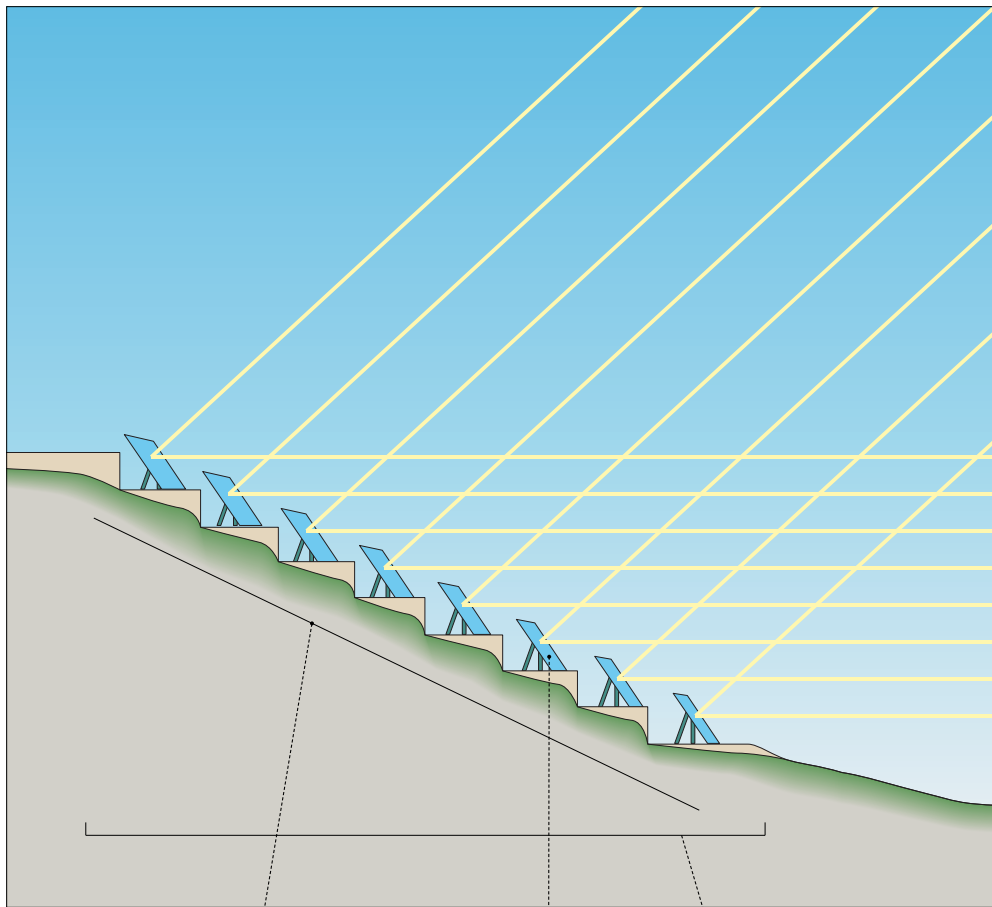
Unit that is usually made up of 36 solar cells, each of which produces a voltage of 0.5 V; it is used to power low-voltage devices.





solar furnace

Plant that concentrates solar radiation to reach very high temperatures (over 5,400°F) as part of a research effort to develop experimental materials (including astronautic materials and ceramics).

**hill**

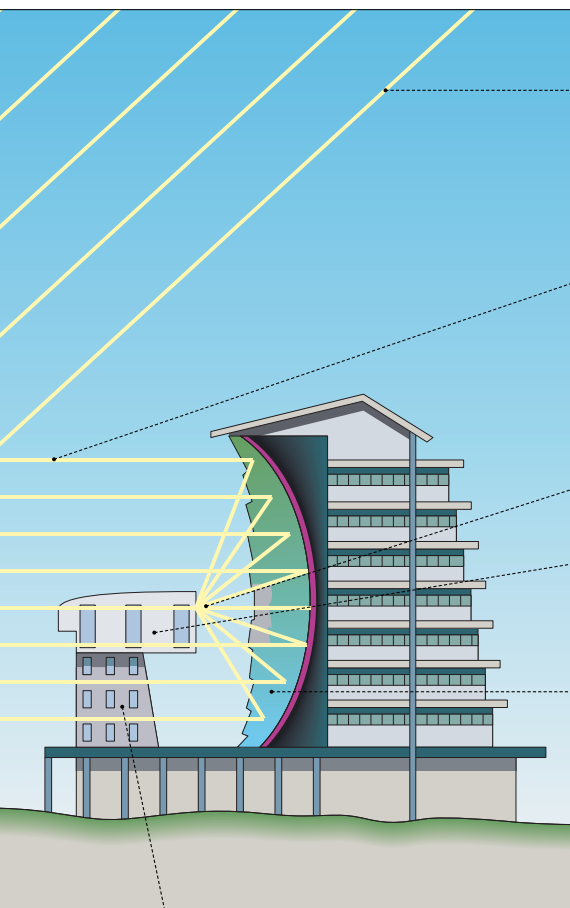
Heliostats are placed on slopes to prevent energy loss due to shade or the interception of reflected rays by neighboring mirrors.

reflecting surface

Polished metallized glass that receives solar radiation and direct it to the parabolic mirror.

bank of heliostats

Heliostats: remote-controlled adjustable mirrors that follow the Sun's trajectory and concentrate solar radiation toward the boiler at the top of the tower.

**solar radiation**

All the electromagnetic waves emitted by the Sun.

solar ray reflected

Solar rays that reach the heliostats are sent to the parabolic mirror.

target area

Point where solar rays reflected by the parabolic mirror converge.

furnace

Reaching temperatures of over 5,400°F, it is mainly used to process and develop materials.

parabolic mirror

Curved mirror that concentrates the Sun's rays toward one point in the furnace (the target area).

tower

Structure atop which the furnace is placed to collect luminous energy; it usually reaches a height of 65 ft.



production of electricity from solar energy

Heating the coolant directly with solar rays turns water into steam, which then turns the turbo-alternator to produce electricity.

solar radiation

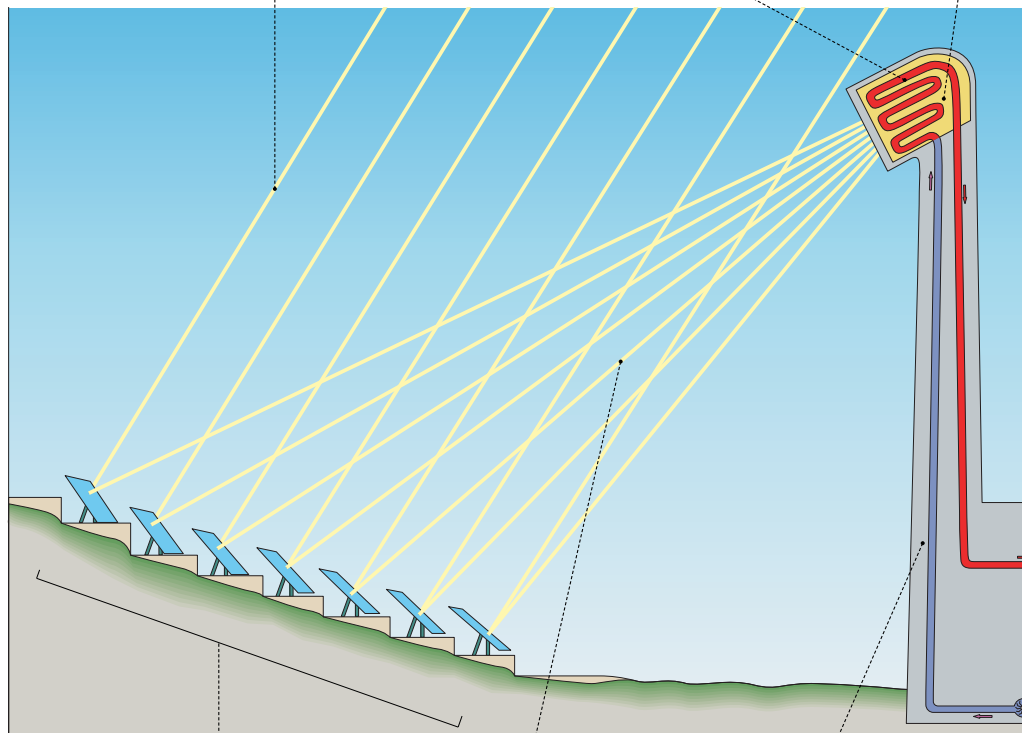
The Sun emits waves in the form of luminous radiation (41% visible light, 52% infrared light and 7% ultraviolet light).

coolant

Fluid (e.g., a mixture of melted salts) that traps the heat from concentrated solar radiation and carries it to the turbine.

boiler

Enclosure in which the concentrated heat from the Sun's rays raises the temperature of the coolant.

**bank of heliostats**

Heliostats: remote-controlled adjustable mirrors that follow the Sun's trajectory and concentrate solar radiation toward the boiler at the top of the tower.

solar ray reflected

Solar rays trapped by heliostats are sent to the boiler.

tower

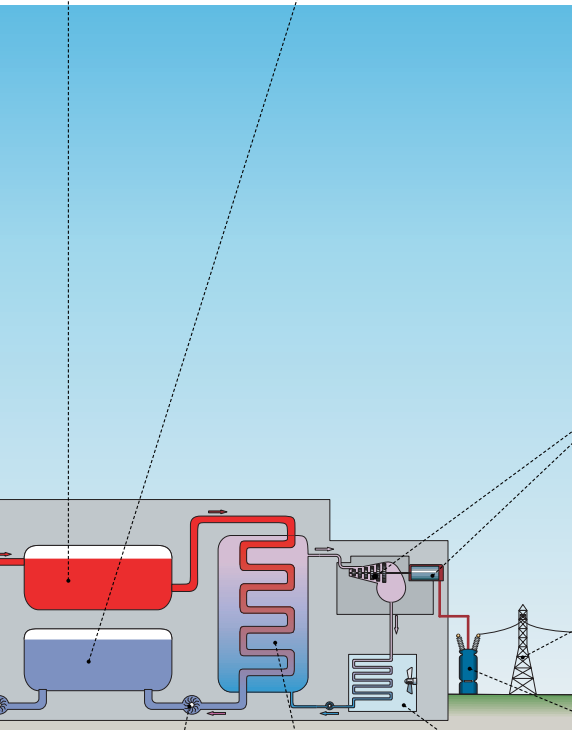
Structure atop which the boiler sits and collects luminous energy; it can reach 325 ft in height.

hot coolant

The coolant extracts heat from the boiler and carries it to the steam generator and turbine.

cold coolant

After releasing its heat to the steam generator, the cold coolant returns to the boiler.

**turbo-alternator**

Device that uses steam to convert the mechanical force generated by the rotation of the turbine into electricity.

electricity transmission network

Electricity is carried over vast distances by a network of cables that extends from the power plant to consumers.

transformer

Device used to alter the electric voltage; the voltage is increased at the plant outlet in order to carry the current over long distances.

pump

Device that ensures that the cold coolant liquid flows to the boiler.

steam generator

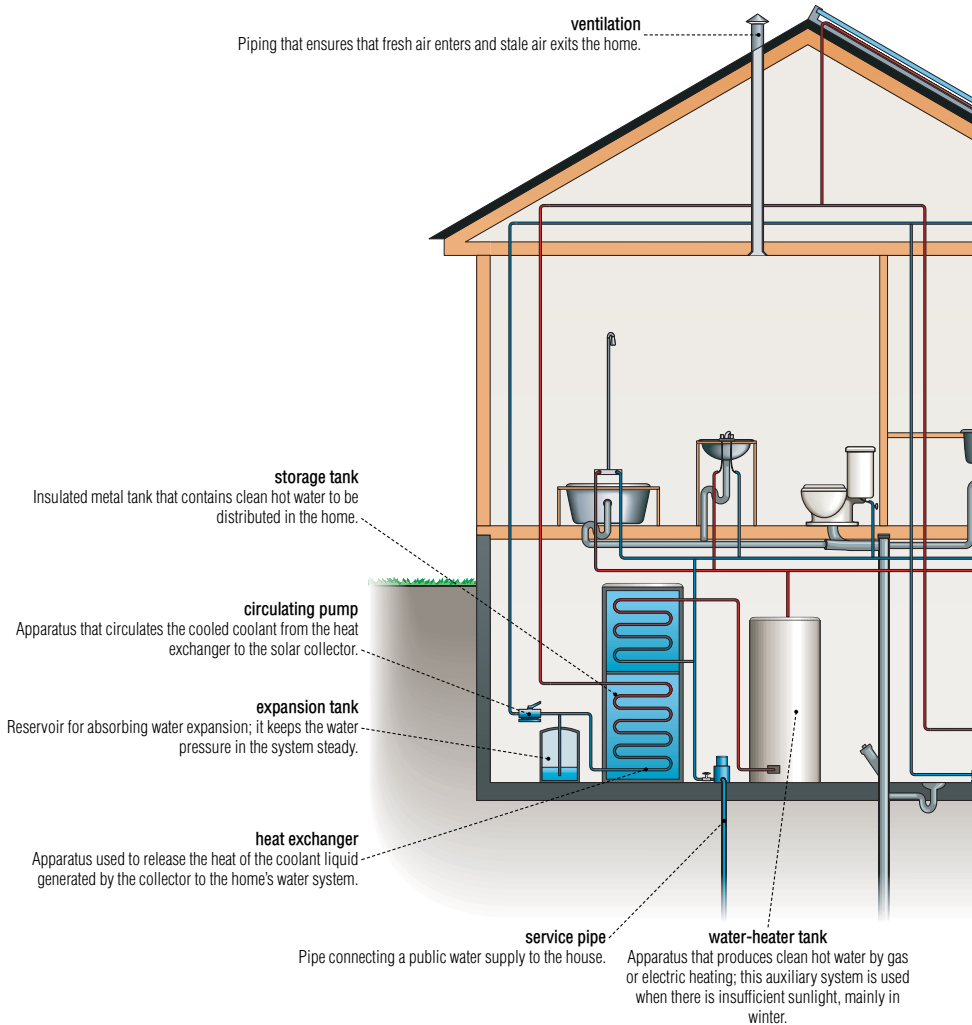
Device that uses heat to convert water into steam to activate the turbo-alternator.

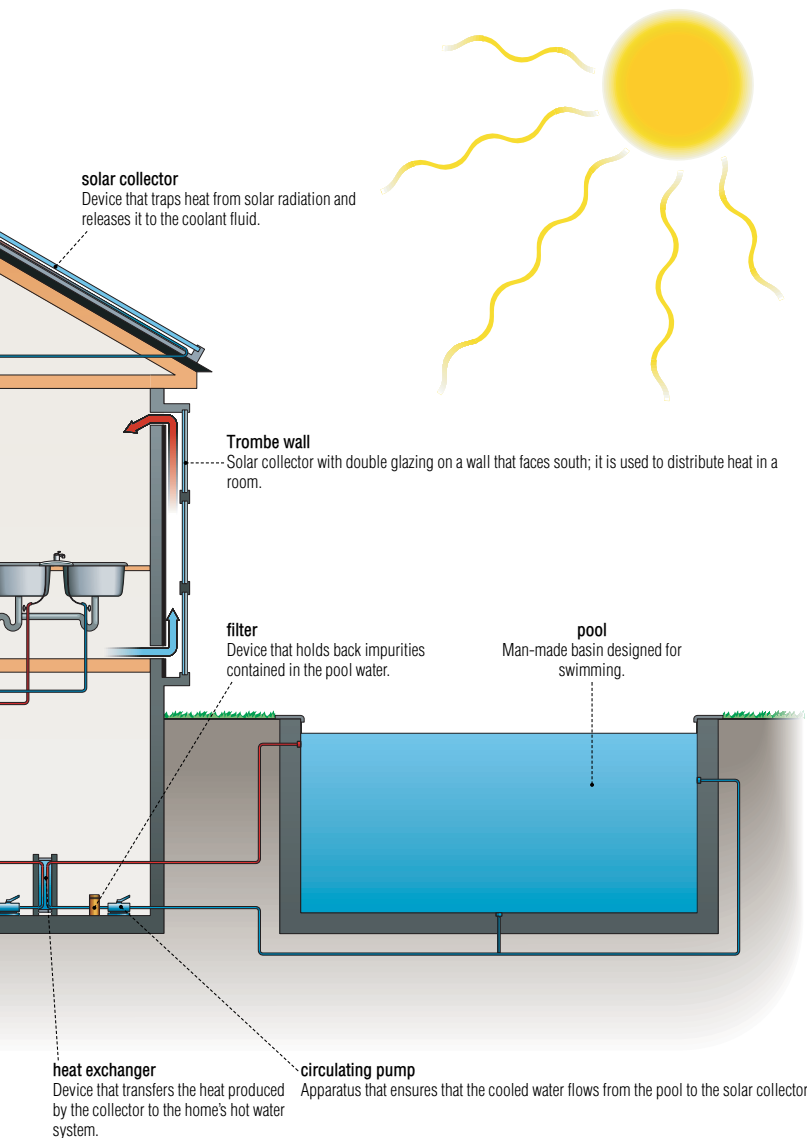
condenser

Circuit that cools the steam from the turbine and condenses it into water, which is reintroduced into the steam generator.

solar house

Solar energy can be used to heat and supply hot water to a home.





Trombe wall

Solar collector with double glazing on a wall that faces south; it is used to distribute heat in a room.

shutter

Flap gate used to control the entry of heat into the home.

warm air

Air heated by solar radiation is introduced into the room by convection.

double glazing

Each of two glass plates placed in front of the concrete wall; they allow solar radiation to penetrate and retain the heat.

solar radiation

All the electromagnetic waves emitted by the Sun.

air gap

Space between the wall and the glazing in which air flows; as air heats up on contact with the wall, it rises naturally in this space.

absorbing surface

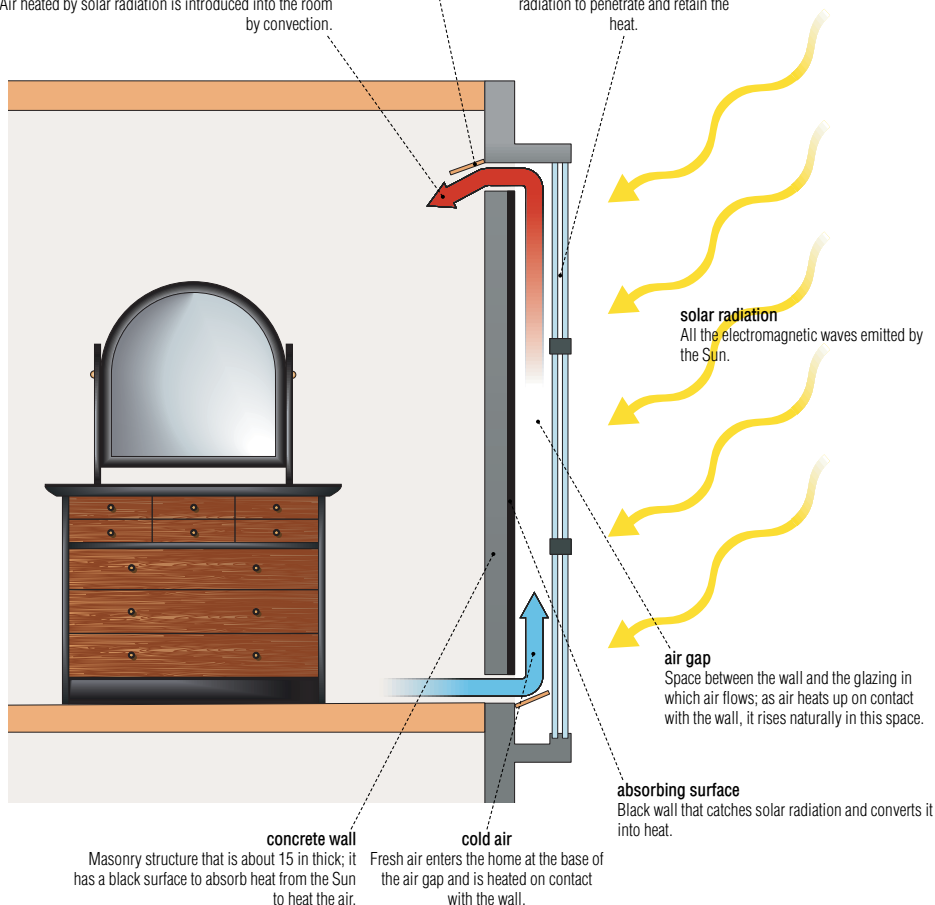
Black wall that catches solar radiation and converts it into heat.

concrete wall

Masonry structure that is about 15 in thick; it has a black surface to absorb heat from the Sun to heat the air.

cold air

Fresh air enters the home at the base of the air gap and is heated on contact with the wall.



Machine that converts wind energy into mechanical energy; it was used in the past to mill grain and pump water.

rotor

Part of the windmill that turns; it consists of rotating blades, which drive the windmill machinery.

post mill

The mill body pivots on a vertical axis when a tail pole is activated by the miller.

tail pole

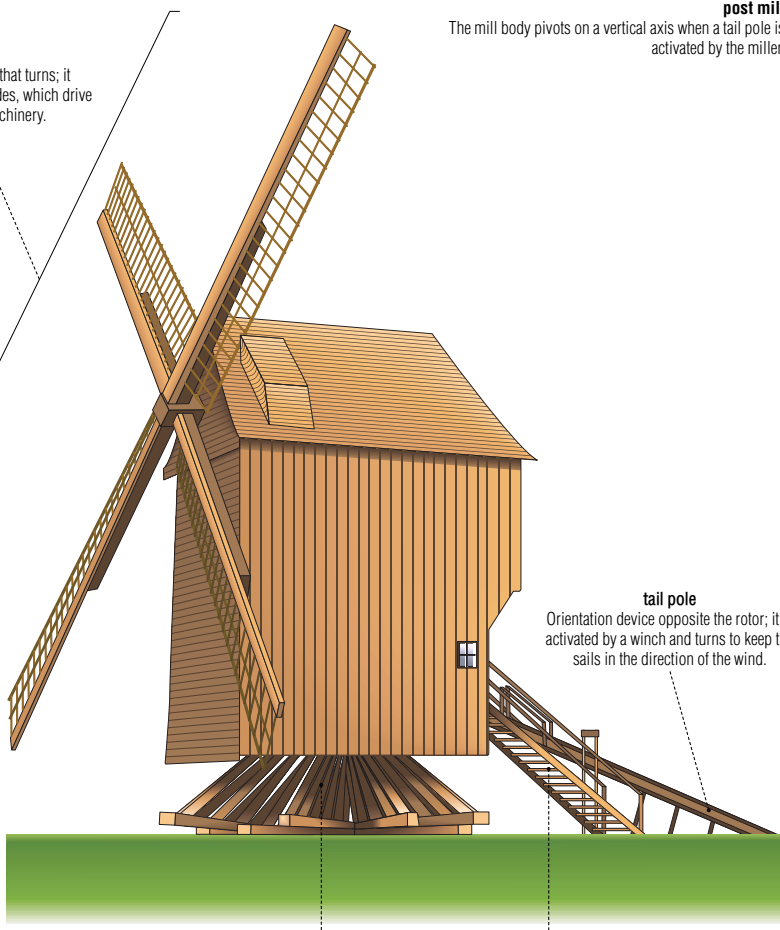
Orientation device opposite the rotor; it is activated by a winch and turns to keep the sails in the direction of the wind.

post

Structure on which the windmill rests and turns.

steps

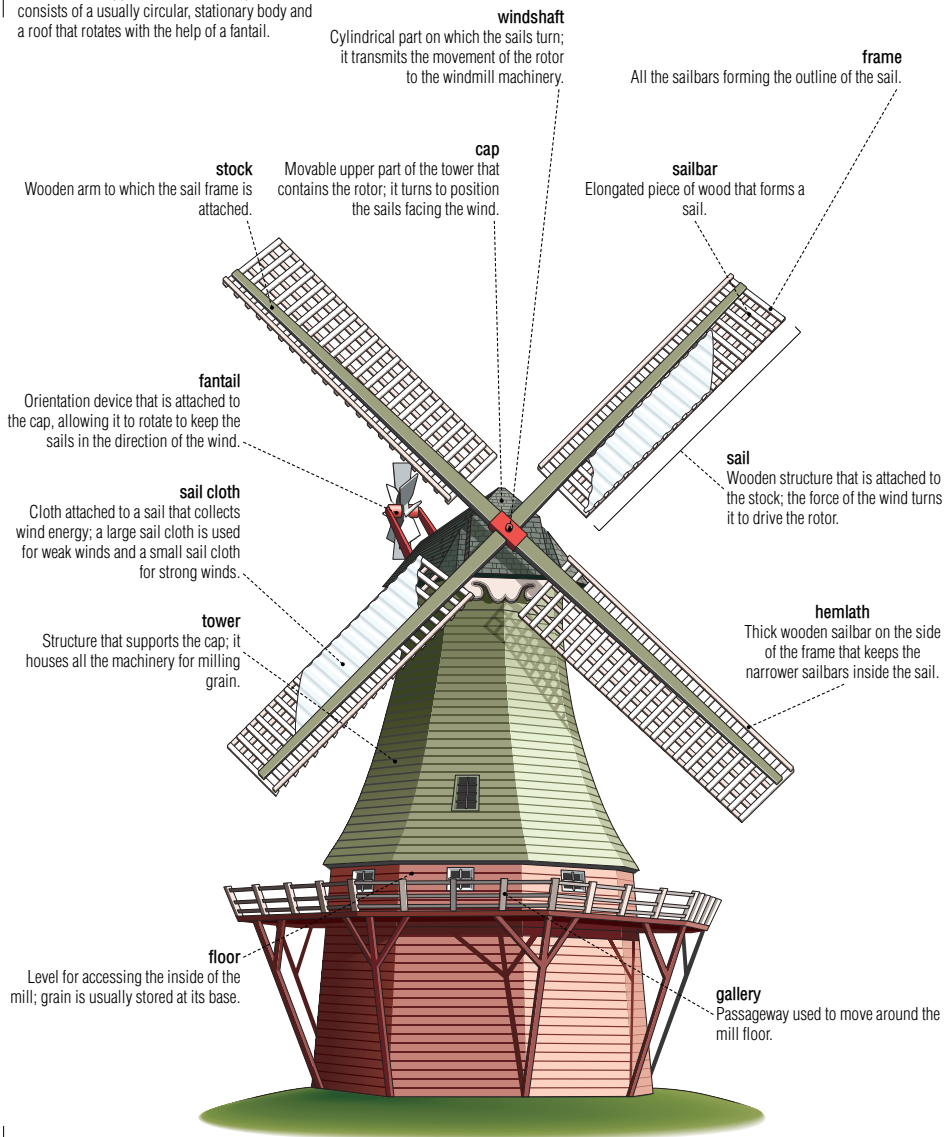
Structural element for accessing the inside of the windmill.



windmill

tower mill

The tower mill appeared later than the post mill; it consists of a usually circular, stationary body and a roof that rotates with the help of a fantail.

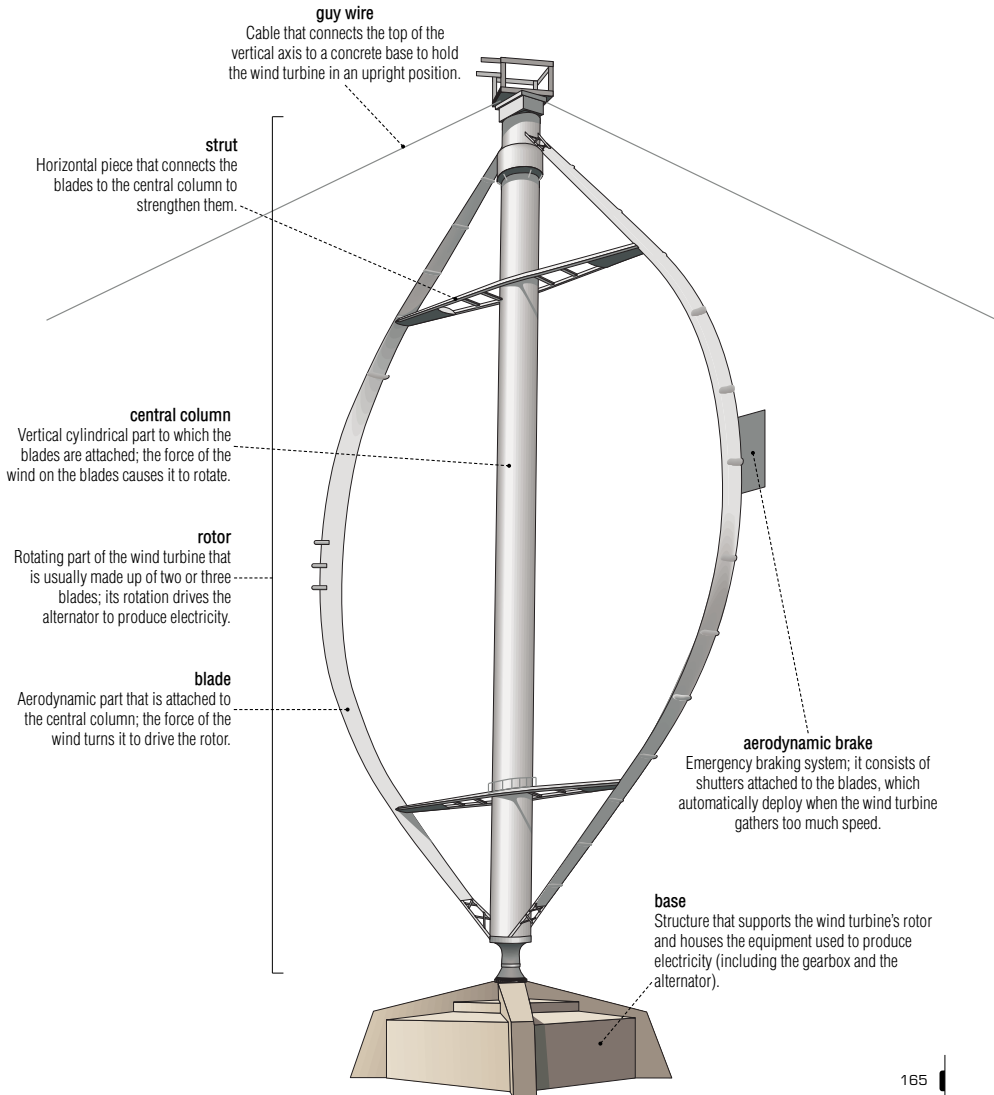


wind turbines and electricity production

Wind turbine: machine that harnesses energy from the wind and converts it into mechanical energy to activate the alternator.

vertical-axis wind turbine

Wind turbine whose axis is perpendicular to the wind.

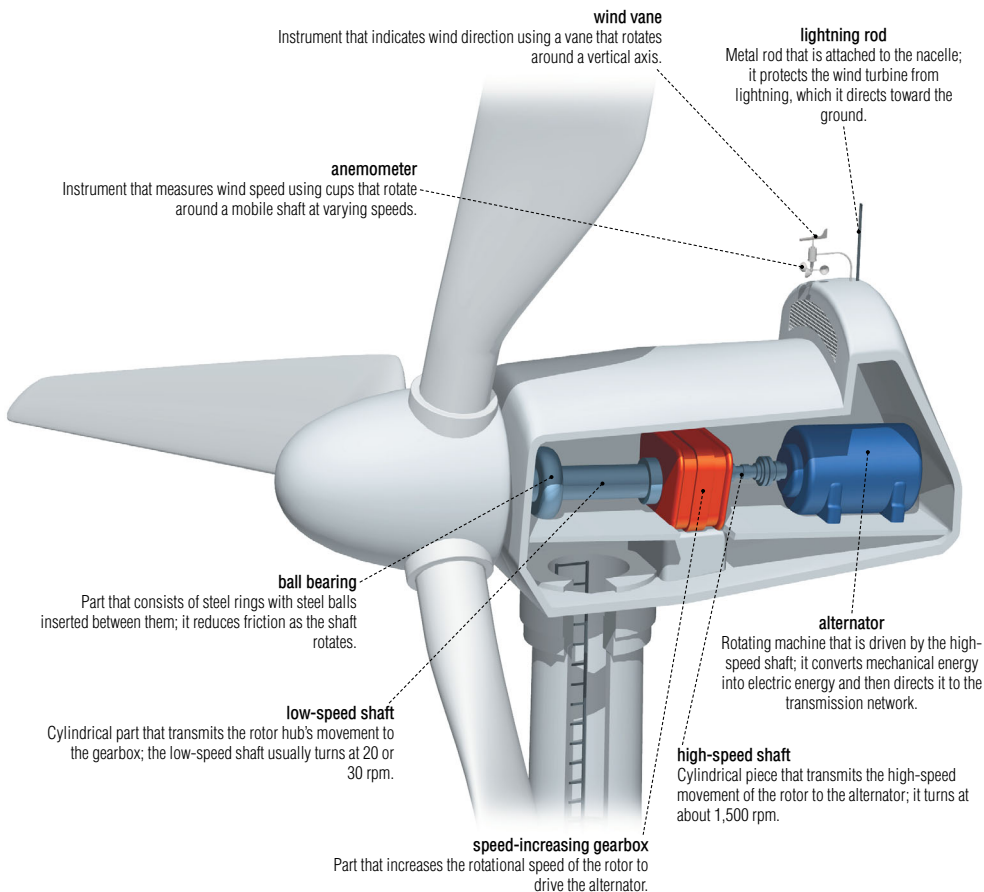


wind turbines and electricity production

horizontal-axis wind turbine

The most common type of wind turbine; its axis positions itself in the direction of the wind.





wind turbines and electricity production

production of electricity from wind energy

Wind farms contain a group of wind turbines, which are driven by the wind; they produce electricity and carry it along the transmission and distribution networks to which they are connected.

horizontal-axis wind turbine

The most common type of wind turbine whose axis is parallel to the direction of the wind.

energy integration to the transmission network

The electricity produced is integrated into the network.

high-tension electricity transmission

Using high-voltage lines to transmit electricity over long distances reduces the strength of the current and, as a result, energy losses.

transmission to consumers

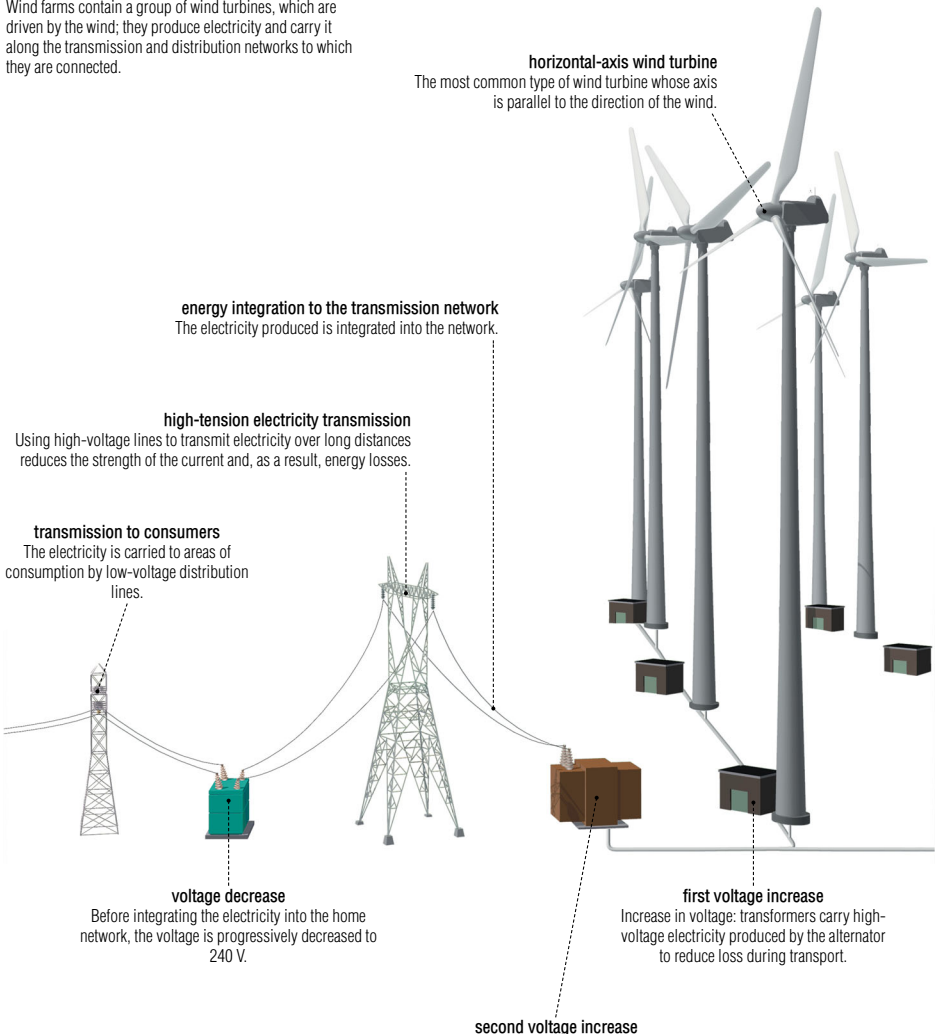
The electricity is carried to areas of consumption by low-voltage distribution lines.

voltage decrease

Before integrating the electricity into the home network, the voltage is progressively decreased to 240 V.

first voltage increase

Increase in voltage: transformers carry high-voltage electricity produced by the alternator to reduce loss during transport.

second voltage increase

ENGLISH INDEX

1/10 second hand 55

A

aboveground pipeline 106
absorbing plate 153
absorbing surface 162
accept machine 138
access gallery 115
access shaft 132
actinides 20
actinium 20
acute angle 75, 76
additive color synthesis 37
adjustment for horizontal-circle image 68
adjustment for vertical-circle image 68
administrative building 130
aerodynamic brake 165
afterbay 113, 115, 122, 123
air gap 162
air hose 90
air leg 90
alcohol bulb 52
alcohol column 52
alidade 68
alidade level 69
alkali metals 14
alkaline earth metals 14
alkaline manganese-zinc cell 31
alternator 29, 167
altitude clamp 50, 51
altitude fine adjustment 50, 51
aluminum 15
americium 20
amorphous solid 9
amount of substance, measurement 71
ampere 70
amplitude 35
analog watch 57
analytical balance 63
anchor wires 100
anemometer 167
angles, examples 76
angles, measure 68
anode 30, 31
anticline 99
antimony 15
antireflection coating 152
anvil 67
aperture changer 46
aperture diaphragm 46
arc 77
arch dam 122
arch dam, cross section 122
argon 16

arm 43, 45
armature 28
armature core 29
armature winding 29
arsenic 15
asphalt 103
astatine 16
astigmatism 39
atom 8
atomic number 12
atoms 8
attraction 34
automatic tank gauge 108
azimuth clamp 50, 51
azimuth fine adjustment 50, 51

B

ball bearing 167
bank 131
bank of heliostats 156, 158
bar 24
barium 14
base 22, 43, 44, 60, 61, 165
base plate 69
basin 131
basin side 133
bathroom scale 64
battery 27, 155
beaker 21
beam 60
beam balance 60
beam diameter reduction 46
bearing pad 140
becquerel 71
belt loader 84, 89
bench 86
bench height 87
berkelium 20
berm 121
beryllium 14
bevel gear 25
bevel square 69
biconcave lens 40
biconvex lens 40
bimetallic helix 54
bimetallic thermometer 54
binocular microscope 44
biology 74
birth 74
bismuth 15
bit 90, 98
black 37
blade 118, 165, 166
blasting charge 97
blood factor negative 74
blood factor positive 74
blower 145
blue 37

body 42, 58
body tube 45
bohrium 19
boiler 158
boiling-water reactor 150
boron 15
bottle 21
bottom cap 30, 31
bottom deck 111
bottom ring 117
bottom road 95
brace 127
branch 27
breather valve 108
bridge 42
bromine 16
brush 28
brushes 29
bucket 118
bucket ring 118
bucket wheel excavator 89
buffer tank 106
bulb 27
bulb unit 132
bulldozer 89
bund wall 108
bundle 128
bunker oil 103
busbar 114
bushing 113, 115, 126
butteress 119
butteress dam 119
butteress dam, cross section 119

C

cadmium 19
calandria 143
calcium 14
californium 20
candela 71
canned failed fuel 139
cantilever 122
cap 164
capacitor 32
capillary tube 53
carbon 16
carbon dioxide gas coolant 144
carbon dioxide reactor 144
carbon rod 30
carbon-zinc cell 30
case 54, 55, 65
casing first string 102
cathode 30, 31
cells 27
Celsius 71
Celsius scale 52

Celsius temperature, measurement 71
center 77
center wheel 56, 59
central column 165
central focusing wheel 42
central pumping station 106
ceramic capacitor 32
cerium 17
cesium 14
chain 58
chain reaction 10
chemical bond 8
chemical elements 12
chemistry 8
chemistry symbols 24
chlorine 16
Christmas tree 101, 102, 106
chromium 18
chuck 91
chute 94
circle, parts 77
circuit breaker 114
circulating pump 160, 161
circumference 77
clamp/holder 22
clamping block 66
clamping screws 66
claw-pole rotor 29
clay core 120
clip 56, 59
clinical thermometer 53
clip 65
clock mechanism 59
coal mine 86
coal storage yard 84
coal-fired thermal power plant 85
coarse adjustment knob 45
cobalt 18
coil 28
cold air 162
cold coolant 135, 159
cold heavy water 147
collector rings 29
color synthesis 37
column of mercury 53
commutator 28
concave lens 39, 40
concrete drain 109
concrete shielding 144, 146, 149, 151
concrete wall 162
condensation 9
condensation of steam into water 136
condensation pool 150

condenser 43, 44, 46, 82, 85, 142, 159
condenser adjustment knob 44
condenser height adjustment 45
condenser water outlet 142
conduction 11
cone 81
confined aquifer 82
connection pin 33
connection point 129
constriction 53
containment building 134, 141
control lever 91
control panel 47
control rod 145, 146, 148, 150
control room 113, 143
control visual display 47
convection 11
convection current 11
converging lenses 40
convex lens 39, 40, 48
conveyor 84, 88, 93
coolant 134, 158
coolant inlet 153
coolant outlet 153
coolant: boiling water 151
coolant: carbon dioxide 145
coolant: pressurized heavy water 146
coolant: pressurized water 149
cooling cylinder 41
cooling tower 83, 85
copper 18
cornea 38
coulomb 70
coupling bolt 118
crane 101
crater 86
crest 35
crest of spillway 112
cross cut 94
cross section of a buttress dam 119
cross section of a gravity dam 123
cross section of a hydroelectric power plant 114
cross section of a power plant 132
cross section of an arch dam 122

cross section of an electron microscope 46
cross section of an embankment dam 120
crossarm 127, 128
crown 57
crude-oil pipeline 106
crusher 84
crystallization 9
cube 80
curium 20
cut-off trench 120, 123
cyan 37
cylinder 81

D

d quark 8
dam 113
darmstadtium 19
data record system 47
death 74
decagon 79
deck 95
declination setting scale 50, 51
degree 75
degree Celsius 71
depolarizing mix 30
derrick 98, 100, 106
dial 54, 57, 58, 60
diameter 77
diesel oil 103
digital display 64
digital thermometer 54
digital watch 57
diode 155
direction of electron flow 27, 31
discharge bay 138
displacement 35
display 62
distance traveled 65
distance, measure 65
distribution panel 129
diverging lenses 40
diversion tunnel 112
divided by 72
dodecagon 79
door access 63
double glazing 162
double pulley system 26
dousing water tank 134, 143
dovetail 49
downstream face 123
downstream shoulder 121
downstream toe 121
draft tube 115, 116
draft tube liner 117
drain valve 109, 110
drainage blanket 121
drainage layer 121
draw tube 44
drift 94
drill collar 98
drill pipe 98

drill rod 90
drill ship 104
drilling drawworks 98
drilling rig 98
drive pulley 29
dry 59
dry cells 30
dry well 150
dual-in-line package 33
dubnium 19
dump 88, 92
dynamo 28
dysprosium 17

E

effort 24, 26
einsteinium 20
electric charge, measurement 70
electric current, measurement 70
electric potential difference, measurement 70
electric resistance, measurement 70
electrical circuit, parallel 27
electricity 27
electricity meter 129
electricity transmission 126, 137
electricity transmission network 159
electrolytic capacitors 32
electrolytic separator 30
electromagnetic spectrum 36
electron 8
electron beam 46
electron beam positioning 46
electron collector 31
electron flow, direction 27, 31
electron gun 46, 47
electron microscope elements 47
electron microscope, cross section 46
electronic scale 62
electronics 32
elements, table 12
elevation adjustment 49
elevator 94, 138
embankment dam 120
embankment dam, cross section 120
emergency support vessel 104
empty set 72
end cap 140
end plate 140
energy 8
energy integration to the transmission network 125, 168
energy release 10
energy transmission to the generator voltage 124
energy, measurement 70

engine 99
equals 72
equipment lock 139
erbium 17
erecting lenses 49
Erlenmeyer flask 21
escape wheel 56, 59
europium 17
evaporation 9
examples of angles 76
examples of dams 119
exciter 117
exhaust port 91
expansion chamber 53
expansion tank 160
eyepiece 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51

F

face 86, 88, 94
factorial 73
Fahrenheit scale 52
failed fuel bay 139
failed fuel canning 138
fan wheel 28, 29
fantail 164
feeder header 143
feedwater 144, 147, 149, 151
female 74
fermium 20
field electromagnet 28
field lens 49
field lens adjustment 44
field line 34
field winding 29
fifty 74
filling inlet 111
filter 161
finderscope 50, 51
fine adjustment knob 45
fine adjustment wheel 66
finely threaded screw 67
first voltage increase 168
fission of uranium fuel 135
fission products 10
fissionable nucleus 10
five 74
five hundred 74
fixed jaw 66
fixed platform 105
fixed-roof tank 108
flame 11
flare 101
flange 41
flat-plate solar collector 153
flexible hose 91
flexible hose connection 91
floating roof 110
floating-roof tank 110
floor 164
flow bean 102
flow tube 153
fluorine 16
focus 38, 39
focusing knob 50, 51

focusing lenses 46
focusing ring 42
force, measurement 70
fork 59
foundation 119
foundation blockage 119
foundation of dam 121
fourth wheel 56
fraction 73
frame 28, 29, 67, 153, 154, 164
Francis runner 118
francium 14
freezing 9
frequency, measurement 70
front beam 61
fuel 134, 146
fuel bundle 140, 141
fuel handling sequence 138
fuel pellet 140, 141
fuel: enriched uranium 149, 151
fuel: natural uranium 145, 146
fueling machine 138, 143, 144, 147
fulcrum 24
fully reflecting mirror 41
function keys 62
furnace 157
fuse 127, 155
fuse cutoff 127
fuse holder 127

G

gadolinium 17
gallery 164
gallium 15
gamma rays 36
gantry crane 113, 114, 115
gas 9, 98
gas burner 22
gas lift module 101
gases, noble 16
gasoline 103
gate 114, 115, 131
gate operating ring 117
gear tooth 25
gearing systems 25
generator 82, 117, 142
generator unit 115, 116
generators 28
geometrical shapes 76
geometry 75
geothermal and fossil energy 82
geothermal energy 82
geothermal field 82
germanium 15
glass 153, 154
glass case 63
glass slide 43, 44
gnomon 57
gold 19
graduated cylinder 23
graduated scale 61, 64
grandfather clock 58
gravity dam 123
gravity dam, cross section 123
greases 103
green 37
ground 111
ground surface 87
ground wire 129
guy wire 165

H

hafnium 19
hairspring 56
hammer drill 90
handle 48, 91
hassium 19
haulage road 86
head of water 124
headbay 113
headframe 93, 94
heat exchanger 144, 160, 161
heat production 135
heat transfer 11
heat transport pump 143
heating oil 103
heavy-water reactor 146
heliostats 158
helipad 100
helium 16
helix 80
hemisphere 80
hemlath 164
hendecagon 79
heptagon 79
hertz 70
hexagon 79
high-pressure steam inlet 142
high-speed shaft 167
high-tension electricity transmission 83, 85, 125, 168
hill 156
hinge 42
hoist room 93
holder 22
holmium 17
hook 64
horizontal clamp 68
horizontal member 128
horizontal-axis wind turbine 166, 168
hot coolant 135, 159
hot line connector 127
hour hand 58, 59
hub 118, 166
hub cover 118
hull column 101
hydraulic turbine 116
hydroelectric complex 112
hydroelectric power plant, cross section 114
hydroelectricity 112
hydrogen 13
hyperopia 39

I

illumination mirror 69
 impervious rock 99
 inactive dike 131
 incandescent lamp 155
 incident neutron 10
 indium 15
 infinity 73
 infrared radiation 36
 injection well 83
 insulation 153
 insulator 126, 127
 integral 73
 integrated circuit 33
 intermediate booster station 107
 international system of units 70
 intersection of two sets 72
 iodine 16
 iridium 19
 iron 18
 is an element of 73
 is approximately equal to 72
 is equivalent to 72
 is greater than 73
 is greater than or equal to 73
 is identical with 72
 is included in/is a subset of 72
 is less than 73
 is less than or equal to 73
 is not an element of 73
 is not equal to 72
 is not identical with 72
 is not parallel to 75
 is parallel to 75

J

jack-up platform 105
 jacket 30
 jackleg drill 90
 jet fuel 103
 jewel 56
 joule 70

K

Kaplan runner 118
 kelly 99
 kelvin 71
 kerosene 103
 kilogram 71
 krypton 16

L

laboratory equipment 21
 ladder 111
 lagging 109
 lamp 44
 landing 95
 lanthanides 17
 lanthanum 17
 laser beam 41
 lawrencium 20
 lead 15
 length, measure 65
 length, measurement 71

lens 38
 lens system 42
 lenses 40
 level 95
 leveling head 68
 leveling head level 68
 leveling head locking knob 68
 leveling screw 63, 69
 lever 24
 lid 33
 lifeboat 101
 light ray 38
 lightning arrester 115, 127
 lightning rod 167
 limb top 44
 liquid 9, 11
 liquid crystal display 57
 liquid nitrogen tank 47
 lithium 14
 load 24, 26
 loading area 138
 loading bunker 92
 lock 130
 lock nut 67
 log chute 112
 low-pressure steam inlet 142
 low-speed shaft 167
 low-tension distribution line 126, 129
 lower confining bed 83
 lubricating oils 103
 lubricator 91
 luminous intensity, measurement 71
 lutetium 17

M

machine hall 113, 115
 magenta 37
 magma chamber 83
 magnesium 14
 magnet 34
 magnetic damping system 61
 magnetic field 34
 magnetism 27, 34
 magnifying glass 43, 48
 main fan 92
 main inlet 108
 main leg 128
 main scale 66
 main scope tube 48
 main steam header 142
 main switch 129
 main tube 50, 51
 main wheel 59
 maintenance shop 92
 male 74
 manganese 18
 manganese mix 31
 manhole 109, 110
 manifold 101
 manometer 109
 manway 94
 maritime transport 93
 mass, measurement 71
 master gate valve 102

mathematics 72
 matter 8
 mean position 35
 measure of angles 68
 measure of distance 65
 measure of length 65
 measure of temperature 52
 measure of thickness 66
 measure of time 55
 measure of weight 60
 measurement of amount of substance 71
 measurement of Celsius temperature 71
 measurement of electric charge 70
 measurement of electric current 70
 measurement of electric potential difference 70
 measurement of electric resistance 70
 measurement of energy 70
 measurement of force 70
 measurement of frequency 70
 measurement of length 71
 measurement of luminous intensity 71
 measurement of mass 71
 measurement of power 70
 measurement of pressure 71
 measurement of radioactivity 71
 measurement of thermodynamic temperature 71
 measuring devices 52
 mechanical shovel 89
 mechanical stage 45
 mechanical stage control 45
 mechanical watch 56
 mechanics 25
 medium-tension distribution line 127, 129
 meitnerium 19
 melting 9
 mendelevium 20
 mercury 19
 mercury bulb 53
 metallic contact grid 152
 metalloids 15
 metals, alkali 14
 metals, alkaline earth 14
 metals, transition 18
 meter 71
 micrometer caliper 67
 micrometer screw 68
 microscope 43
 microscope, binocular 44
 microscopes 43
 microwaves 36
 miners' changing-room 93
 minus/negative 72
 minute 75
 minute hand 55, 58, 59
 mirror 43

moderator 134
 moderator tank 147
 moderator: graphite 145
 moderator: heavy water 146
 moderator: natural water 149, 151
 mole 71
 molecule 8
 molybdenum 18
 Moon dial 58
 mud injection hose 98
 mud pit 99
 mud pump 99
 multiplied by 72
 myopia 39

N

nacelle 166, 167
 nacelle, cross-section 167
 negative charge 24
 negative contact 152, 154
 negative meniscus 40
 negative region 152
 negative terminal 27, 30
 neodymium 17
 neon 16
 neptunium 20
 network connection 129
 neutral line 34
 neutron 8
 new fuel storage room 139
 newton 70
 nickel 18
 niobium 18
 nitrogen 16
 nobelium 20
 noble gases 16
 node 27
 non-metals 16
 nonagon 79
 normal vision 38
 north pole 34
 notch 61
 nuclear energy 134
 nuclear energy, production of electricity 134
 nuclear fission 10
 nuclear fuel handling sequence 138
 nuclear generating station 142
 nuclear reactor 141
 nucleus 8
 nucleus splitting 10
 numeric keyboard 62

O

object 38
 objective 43, 44
 objective lens 42, 48
 obtuse angle 75, 76
 offshore drilling 104
 offshore prospecting 97
 offshore well 106
 ohm 70
 oil 96, 98
 oil processing area 100
 oil/gas separator 101

oiler 90
 one 74
 one hundred 74
 one thousand 74
 open-pit mine 86
 operating dam 131
 operating floor 132
 optical sight 68
 optics 35
 ore 87
 ore pass 95
 osmium 19
 overburden 87, 89
 overhead connection 126
 overhead ground wire 128
 oxygen 16

P

packaged integrated circuit 32, 33
 palladium 18
 pallet 59
 pan 60, 61, 63
 pan hook 61
 panel 95, 128
 parabolic mirror 157
 paraffins 103
 parallel electrical circuit 27
 parallelepiped 81
 parallelogram 78
 partially reflecting mirror 41
 parts of a circle 77
 pascal 71
 pediment 58
 pedometer 65
 Pelton runner 118
 pencil 140
 pendulum 58
 pendulum bob 59
 pendulum rod 59
 penstock 113, 114, 133
 pentagon 79
 percent 73
 peripheral joint 122
 perpendicular 75
 Petri dish 23
 petrochemicals 103
 petroleum trap 96, 97
 phosphorus 16
 photographic chamber 47
 photon 41
 physics 35
 pi 75
 pier 104
 pillar 94
 pinion 59
 pipeline 102, 107
 pitching 120
 pithead 92
 pivot 24
 plane surfaces 77
 plano-concave lens 40
 plano-convex lens 40

- plastic film capacitor 32
 platform 62
 platinum 19
 plinth 58
 plus or minus 73
 plus/positive 72
 plutonium 20
 pneumatic hammer 91
 pointer 54, 60, 64
 polonium 15
 polygons 78
 pontoon 100
 pool 161
 Porro prism 42
 port 138
 positive charge 24
 positive contact 152, 154
 positive meniscus 40
 positive region 152
 positive terminal 27, 30
 positive/negative junction 152
 post 163
 post mill 163
 potassium 14
 power plant 113, 130
 power plant, cross section 132
 power source 27
 power, measurement 70
 praseodymium 17
 pressure gauge 102
 pressure tube 140, 141
 pressure, measurement 71
 pressurized heavy water 147
 pressurized-water reactor 148
 pressurizer 147, 148
 printed circuit 32
 printed circuit board 32
 printout 62
 prism binoculars 42
 product code 62
 production of electricity by the generator 124, 137
 production of electricity from geothermal energy 82
 production of electricity from nuclear energy 134
 production of electricity from solar energy 158
 production of electricity from thermal energy 84
 production of electricity from wind energy 168
 production of electricity, steps 124
 production platform 100, 107
 production well 82
 production/export riser system 100
 promethium 17
 propagation 35
 protactinium 20
 proton 8
 protractor 69
 pulley 26
 pulsed ruby laser 41
 pulverizer 85
 pulvino 122
 pump 147, 148, 150, 159
 pumping station 107
 pylon 128
 pylon body 128
 pylon foot 128
 pylon top 128
 pyramid 81
- Q**
 quadrant 77
 quadrilateral 78
 quark 8
- R**
 rack and pinion gear 25
 radiation 11
 radio mast 101
 radio waves 36
 radioactive nuclei 10
 radioactivity, measurement 71
 radium 14
 radius 77
 radon 16
 rail track 93
 ramp 87
 rare earth 17
 ratchet knob 67
 ratchet wheel 56, 59
 reaction direction 24
 reactor 135, 138, 143
 reactor building 141, 143
 reactor building airlock 143
 reactor core 145, 148, 150
 reactor tank 150
 reactor vessel 141
 reactor, carbon dioxide 144
 reactor, heavy-water 146
 rear beam 61
 reception bay 139
 rectangle 78
 red 37
 reentrant angle 76
 refinery 106
 refinery products 103
 reflecting cylinder 41
 reflecting surface 156
 reflecting telescope 50
 refracting telescope 51
 regular decagon 79
 regular dodecagon 79
 regular hendecagon 79
 regular heptagon 79
 regular hexagon 79
 regular nonagon 79
 regular octagon 79
 regular octahedron 81
 regular pentagon 79
 reheater 142
 repulsion 34
 reservoir 113, 114, 119, 120, 122, 123
 reset button 55, 65
 resistors 32
 retainer 91
 reticle 49
 retina 38
 reversible reaction 24
 revolving nosepiece 43, 44
 rhenium 19
 rhodium 18
 rhombus 78
 right angle 75, 76
 right ascension setting scale 50, 51
 ring 55, 64, 118
 Roberval's balance 60
 rod 22
 roentgenium 19
 Roman numerals 74
 roof 88
 room 94
 rope 26
 rotary system 99
 rotary table 99
 rotation of the turbine 124
 rotor 116, 163, 165
 round-bottom flask 21
 rubidium 14
 ruby cylinder 41
 ruler 65, 66
 runner 116
 runner blade 117, 118, 132
 runners 118
 ruthenium 18
 rutherfordium 19
- S**
 safety tank 147
 safety valve 135
 sail 164
 sail cloth 164
 sailbar 164
 samarium 17
 sand 120
 scale 53, 65
 scandium 18
 science 8
 scientific symbols 70
 screen 114
 scroll case 115
 sea 130
 sea side 132
 seaborgium 19
 sealing material 31
 sealing plug 30, 31
 sealing ring 111
 second 75
 second hand 55
 second voltage increase 168
 secondary inlet 108
 sector 77
 seismographic recording 96, 97
 selenium 15
 semi-metals 15
 semicircle 77
 semisubmersible platform 105
 separator 31, 82, 142
 serological pipette 23
 service building 139
 service pipe 160
 shadow 57
 shaft 25, 28, 29, 54, 117
 shell 110
 shock wave 96, 97
 shunt 27
 shutter 162
 silencer 91
 silicon 15
 silver 19
 skip 95
 sliding jaw 66
 sliding weight 61
 sodium 14
 soil 122
 solar cell 152, 154
 solar collector 153, 161
 solar energy 152
 solar energy, production of electricity 158
 solar furnace 156
 solar house 160
 solar radiation 152, 153, 154, 157, 158, 162
 solar ray reflected 157, 158
 solar-cell panel 154
 solar-cell system 154
 solid 9, 11
 solids 80
 south pole 34
 spacer 140
 specimen chamber 47
 specimen positioning control 47
 spectrometer 47
 speed-increasing gearbox 167
 spent fuel discharge bay 142
 spent fuel port 138
 spent fuel storage bay 139, 141, 143
 sphere 80
 spillway 112
 spillway chute 112
 spillway gate 112
 spindle 59, 67
 spiral case 116
 spiral staircase 109
 splash plate 109
 spray nozzle 108
 spring balance 64
 sprinklers 134
 spur gear 25
 square 78
 square root of 73
 stack 85
 stage 43, 45, 46
 stage clip 43, 44
 stairs 111
 stand 22
 start button 55
 states of matter 9
 stator 117
 stay ring 117
 stay vane blade 117
 steam 82
 steam generator 85, 143, 147, 149, 159
 steam outlet 144, 147, 149, 151
 steam pressure drives turbine 136
 steel casing 31
 steelyard 61
 stem 53
 step setting 65
 steps 163
 steps in production of electricity 124
 stock 164
 stop button 55
 stopwatch 55
 storage tank 160
 storage tray 139
 stove oil 103
 straight stopcock burette 23
 strap 57
 strip mine 88
 strontium 14
 strut 165
 sublimation 9
 submarine pipeline 107
 substation 130
 substructure 98
 subtractive color synthesis 37
 sulfur 16
 sum 73
 sundial 57
 supercooling 9
 supply of water 124
 supply point 126
 surface prospecting 96
 suspension insulator string 128
 suspension spring 59
 switch 27
 swivel 98
 symbol 12
 system of units 70

T

table of elements 12
 tail pole 163
 tailrace 115
 tank farm 107
 tank gauge float 108
 tanks 108
 tantalum 19
 target area 157
 technetium 18
 telescope 69
 telescopic sight 48
 tellurium 15
 temperature, measure 52
 ten 74
 terbium 17
 terminal 106, 126
 terminal box 154
 test tube 23
 thallium 15
 theodolite 68
 thermal energy 84
 thermodynamic temperature, measurement 71
 thermometer 52, 111
 thickness, measure 66
 thimble 67
 third wheel 56, 59
 thorium 20
 throttle valve 91
 thrust bearing 116
 thulium 17
 tidal power plant 130
 tin 15

titanium 18
 tool 91
 toothed wheel 25
 top cap 30
 top deck 111
 top of dam 112, 120, 123, 133
 top road 95
 toric lens 39
 torus 80
 total 62
 tower 157, 158, 164, 166
 tower mill 164
 training wall 112
 transfer canal 138
 transfer of heat to water 135
 transformation of mechanical work into electricity 124
 transformer 114, 126, 142, 159
 transition metals 18
 transmission to consumers 85, 125, 168
 trapezoid 78
 traveling crane 115
 treatment plant 93
 trench 88
 triangle 78
 tripod 51
 Trombe wall 161, 162
 trough 35
 tubing 102
 tubing head 102
 tubing valve 102
 tubular member 100

tungsten 19
 turbine 82, 142
 turbine headcover 116
 turbine runner 132
 turbine shaft turns generator 136
 turbo-alternator 159
 turbo-alternator unit 85
 turret cap 49

U

u quark 8
 ultraviolet radiation 36
 underground mine 94
 union of two sets 72
 unit price 62
 ununbium 19
 upper confining bed 82
 upstream blanket 120
 upstream face 123
 upstream shoulder 120
 upstream toe 120
 uranium 20

V

vacuum chamber 46
 vacuum manifold 46
 vacuum system console 47
 vanadium 18
 vapor 11
 ventilation 160
 vernier 61, 66
 vernier caliper 66
 vernier scale 66
 vertical shaft 94

vertical-axis wind turbine 165
 vibrating mudscreen 98
 visible light 36
 vision 38
 vision defects 39
 visual transmission 46
 volt 70
 voltage decrease 85, 125, 168
 voltage increase 83, 85, 124, 137

W

warm air 162
 wash bottle 21
 washer 30
 water 83
 water cools the used steam 136
 water hose 90
 water intake 114
 water is pumped back into the steam generator 136
 water separator 90
 water turns into steam 135
 water under pressure 124
 water-heater tank 160
 water-steam mix 82
 watt 70
 wave 35
 wave wall 120
 wavelength 35
 weighing platform 64
 weight 58, 59, 60, 62
 weight, measure 60

weight-driven clock mechanism 59
 wet well 151
 white 37
 wicket gate 116
 wind energy 163
 wind turbine, horizontal-axis 168
 wind turbines 165
 wind vane 167
 winder 56
 winding adjustment 49
 winding mechanism 59
 winding shaft 95
 winding tower 93, 95
 windmill 163
 windshaft 164
 winze 94
 wire 33
 worm gear 25

X

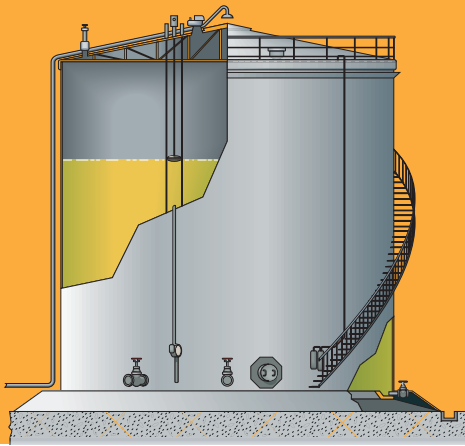
X-rays 36
 xenon 16

Y

yellow 37
 ytterbium 17
 yttrium 18

Z

zinc 18
 zinc can 30
 zinc-electrolyte mix 31
 zirconium 18



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